

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER



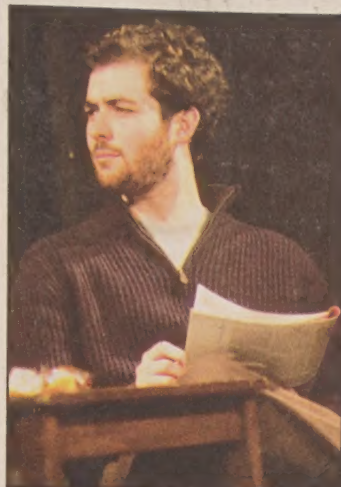
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End of the Brody era



FILE PHOTO

By **WESLEY SUDDUTH, MAX MCKENNA and MARIE CUSHING**
News-Letter Staff Writers

University President William Brody, who has overseen more than a decade of sprawling expansion and catapulted Hopkins into the national spotlight, announced this week that he will retire from his position at the end of 2008.

The Board of Trustees will soon convene a search committee to find a replacement, a sweeping task with far-reaching implications for the direction of the University in coming years.

"After a dozen years in the best job I'll ever have, I informed the Board of Trustees today that I will retire on Dec. 31 as president of the Johns Hopkins University," Brody wrote in an email to the University on Monday.

Brody's tenure, the fifth-longest in Hopkins history, ushered in a transformative process of re-identification, during which the University undertook numerous capital projects and revamped its undergraduate education.

Hopkins administrators, however, are adamant that there will be no significant modifications to the operation of the University following President Brody's departure.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A3



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR



FILE PHOTO

Upper left: Brody addresses students at Shriver Hall at Convocation in 2007. Above: At a press conference announcing his retirement, Brody became emotional as he discussed events during his time at Hopkins, including the deaths of two students. Pamela Flaherty, chair of the Board of Trustees, looked on. Left: Brody and his wife Wendy have traditionally welcomed new students and parents to Homewood at move-in during orientation.

Symposium discussion turns into heated debate

By **LEAH MAINIERO**
News-Letter Staff Writer

What began as a "coffee-table discussion" between Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell and political science professor Steven David soon devolved into a tense back-and-forth Wednesday afternoon, with frequent jabs over issues such as waterboarding, warrantless wiretapping and nuclear proliferation.

McConnell signaled his expectation that the sit-down with David, sponsored by the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) before overflow crowds in Shriver Hall, would become testy early on.

"I suspect that if Professor David has his way I'll likely be on the nightly news. If I have my way, this would never have hap-

pened," he quipped in his introduction.

Twenty minutes later the light-hearted mood had quickly dissipated when David, the discussion moderator, began posing tougher-than-expected questions.

David brought up the controversial issue of waterboarding as an interrogation technique. Many human rights organizations classify the technique, which the Central Intelligence Agency employed in the past, as torture.

When asked if he considered waterboarding a form of torture, McConnell replied, "[Waterboarding] is not on our list of techniques. If it was not illegal and would prevent an attack on a city, I would be

inclined to use it."

In at least one instance when waterboarding was employed, he pointed out, CONTINUED ON PAGE A2



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
McConnell debated waterboarding with Professor David.

Prosecutors will not seek death penalty in case of local waitress

By **PATRICIA PUGH**
News-Letter Staff Writer

State prosecutors have decided not to seek the death penalty in the case against David Lee Miller, the man accused of killing pregnant Charles Village Pub waitress Elizabeth Walters, due to a legal technicality in the state's new fetal homicide law.

Miller, 25, faces two counts of first-degree murder in the shooting last June of Walters, 24, who was seven months pregnant.

Prosecutors used Maryland's relatively new fetal homicide law to indict Miller on two counts of first-degree murder because Walters's seven-month-old fetus was deemed "viable" — able to survive outside the womb — by a state medical examiner.

Under the state's death penalty statutes, offenders who commit two first-degree murders in the same incident are eligible for capital punishment. The description of Miller's alleged offenses seems to imply that it would meet these stipulations.

However, "The statutory language based on the murder of the viable fetus does not allow the prosecution of this matter as a death penalty case," said Allan Webster, the assistant state's attorney, who is working on Miller's case with Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger.

"It follows that if Miller is convicted of both crimes, he will not have killed two persons. I understand and agree with the prosecutor's conclusion that the killing of two persons is required to make one eligible for the death penalty," said Michael Milleman, a professor of public interest law at the University of Maryland's law school.

This case therefore demonstrates that legally, there can be a distinction between being a "person" and being the victim of a homicide.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A2

Despite improvements, residents in East Baltimore remain disgruntled

By **MICHAEL ROGERS and LENA DENIS**
News-Letter Staff Writers

This article is the first in a series profiling the various perspectives on development in Middle East Baltimore, near the Hopkins medical campus.

Leslie Lewis no longer recognizes the Middle East Baltimore neighborhood she grew up in. Before development forced residents to relocate, she felt a strong sense of community.

"You had your moms on the block sitting out on the steps or sweeping the sidewalk in front of their houses. You knew everybody and everybody knew you ... it was almost like a small town," she said.

"When I walk through the neighborhood, it's very hard to imagine it has an identity. It feels like a ghost town ... There's nothing like seeing 30 acres of property in rubble," she said.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Donald Gresham is president of SMEAC, a community organization.

Conflicts and cooperation between two organizations in the Middle East Baltimore neighborhood are shaping a community identity for the area, which has been impacted by developments that forced residents to relocate.

East Baltimore Development, Inc. (EBDI) is a partnership between institutions, including Hopkins, and is CONTINUED ON PAGE A4

University plans 5-percent hike in 2008-'09 tuition

University has yet to announce the decision, made in December

By **HUSAIN DANISH**
News-Letter Staff Writer

University officials expect to announce a 5-percent increase in tuition for the upcoming academic year in the coming weeks, though the decision was made by the Board of Trustees in December.

With the 5-percent hike, next year's tuition will be \$37,700, an increase that hovers just above the current inflation rate.

"We will be making a formal announcement of the tuition for next year sometime within the next couple of weeks," University Spokesman Dennis O'Shea said. "Until recently, we have made the announcement in late winter when the Board has voted upon the issue. This year, the Board decided upon the issue much earlier."

The Board of Trustees traditionally decides on the price of tuition for the coming year in late winter. However, due CONTINUED ON PAGE A7

Political event, concert may be added to Fall Fest

By **PAYAL PATNAIK**
News-Letter Staff Writer

Hopkins may play host to the "single largest celebration of American politics on any college campus" this fall, according to the coordinators of Hopkins Engaged 2008.

The planners, freshman class president Dan Teran and senator for finance Justin Waite hope the event, which is still in its initial planning stages, will initiate collaboration within campus political groups.

According to their proposal, the event itself could potentially bring in a popular band, high caliber political speakers and a variety of national political groups.

Teran hopes too see Hopkins Engaged as a focal point for Fall Festival.

Teran Waite co-authored a proposal for the event to be initiated this fall.

"The idea of Hopkins Engaged was to create an event to catalyze political activity and to help curb the political apathy that exists on this campus," he said. Teran believes that Hopkins Engaged has the potential to be the single-largest celebration of American politics on any college campus because of the breadth of its focus.

The proposal emphasizes the need for an institution like Hopkins to foster political enthusiasm amongst its students.

"Although our reputation as strictly research oriented may be inaccurate, the political apathy demonstrated by our student body reinforces this widely accepted notion," the proposal stated.

A steering committee, including representatives from several student groups, will be created to guide and plan events for Hopkins Engaged.

"This is the most comprehensive proposal I've seen in terms of getting a larger number of people involved," said Paula Burger, dean of undergraduate studies and vice provost. "It is a good test case of whether or not we can have the kind of programming that gets various groups working together on a larger project. Most organizations have small discrete activities, but this is taking a handful of activities and making bigger things."

According to Teran, the effort could be funded through the Hopkins Organization for

Programming, the Council, the administration, Burger's office, FallFest's planning committee and the alumni groups, though the budget is uncertain since the steering committee will help determine the budget.

"We can't afford to have a generation of young people who have sat on the sidelines politically. I think there's a national fence of people being energized and more conscious of the fact that they have responsibility and opportunity to be involved. This national sense of enthusiasm and engagement would certainly percolate into Hopkins," Burger said.

Teran has sent an e-mail to the leaders of Hopkins Energy Action team, the JHU ACLU, JHU Amnesty International, the Black Student Union, the College Democrats and Republicans and Students for Environmental Action. He also has notified the Hopkins Organization for Programming, which plans the Fall Festival.

The students are leaders of the most vocal organizations on campus, according to Teran, who hopes to recruit them to join the steering committee responsible for planning the event. Although other minority groups on campus are allowed to be a part of the main event, Teran looked for student groups that he felt had a similar cross section and were consistently active with a political intent, he said. He is still waiting for responses.

"I don't have a full grasp of what they're planning, but I think it could be interesting and could be a good idea. We were thinking of trying something larger for fall, whether it's just a fall concert, but we're still waiting to hear more about it," said Wade Mayes, co-chair of the HOP.

Teran hopes to attract more attention to the political effort on campus and jumpstart a change in the on-campus political approach.

"It is our goal to attract local and national media attention to shed positive light on the revolution of the Hopkins community," he wrote in the proposal.

Teran expects to plan Hopkins Engaged during the summer and hopes the steering committee will begin meeting immediately after spring break. The initial report for the effort and cost breakdown will be sent to the administration after the steering committee meets, including the dean's and provost's offices.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

"I would be willing to say that [the information we obtained] saved the lives of people known by people in this room."

However, McConnell emphasized that the intelligence community "will abide by the laws of the nation," which banned waterboarding as an acceptable interrogation technique.

When responding to David's suggestion that many Americans lost faith in the intelligence community after the Cold War, McConnell said, "It's convenient for a professor or a journalist to say, 'you didn't predict the collapse of the Soviet Union.' However, we won the Cold war."

David also directed the discussion toward the red tape that many applicants, including Hopkins students, experience when applying to jobs in intelligence agencies and departments. The ineptness of the intelligence community's human resources department, David said, "makes the Baltimore Department of Motor Vehicles look efficient."

"It can take anywhere from four months to a year to 18 months to hire," McConnell agreed, "I'd like to get that down to a month."

After providing the audience with his personal e-mail address in case they experience any problems with their applications, he joked, "hopefully we're better than the Department of Motor Vehicles. I wish you good luck when you renew your license."

The event's professional though heated, atmosphere suffered a brief interruption when Jerry Raitzyk, a representative from the Network of Spiritual Progressives, began reading selections from government documents addressing waterboarding and refused to give up the microphone during the question and answer session at the event's conclusion.

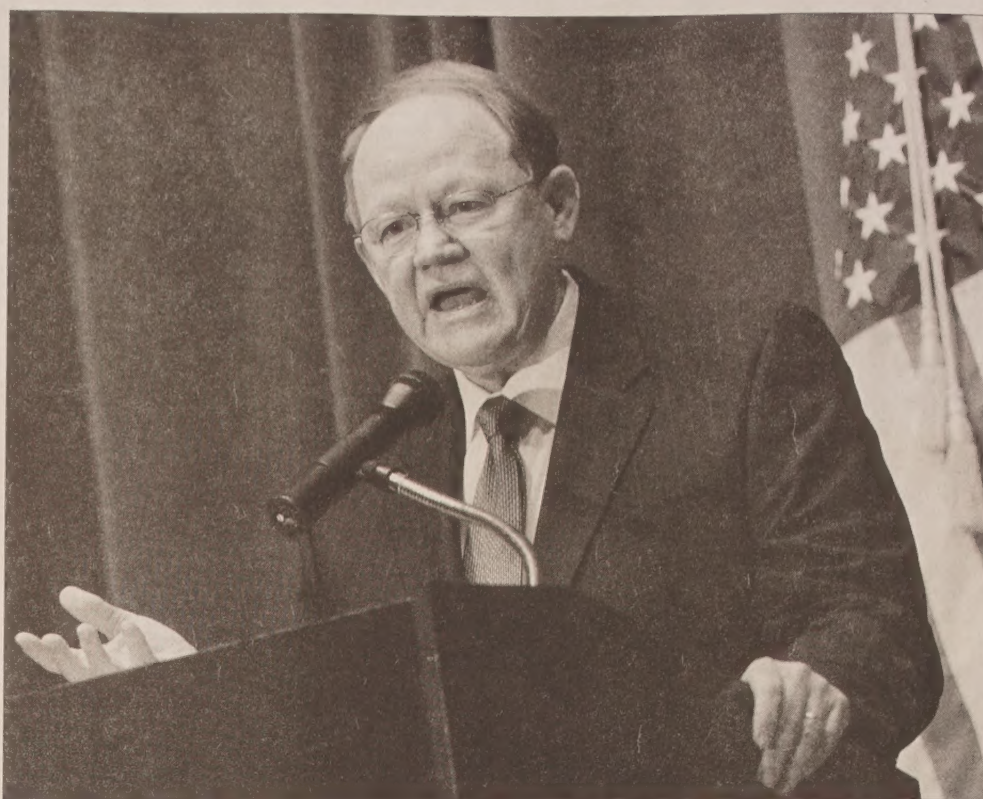
"[McConnell] wouldn't let me finish what I was saying there," Raitzyk said after the discussion.

An FAS member took the microphone out of Raitzyk's hands when he called the director "arrogant," motivating Raitzyk to proclaim that he did not need a microphone to be heard. There were no further interruptions to the discussion.

McConnell took the opportunity to promote renewing legislation that would allow the U.S. government to wiretap, without obtaining a warrant, foreign communications passing through the United States.

"Think of wireless as the on- and off-ramp of a 6,000-lane

highway," he said. "Communications from Pakistan to Iraq likely could pass through the United States."



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell was forced to respond to tough questions at Shriver Hall yesterday.

highway," he said. "Communications from Pakistan to Iraq likely could pass through the United States."

McConnell considers the tools the Protect America Act of 2007 provides essential to protecting the United States, although the Act expired Feb. 17, 2008, and officials must now go through the court system to obtain warrants.

McConnell also briefly answered audience questions regarding terrorist acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the presence of Al Qaeda and sectarian violence in Iraq.

"Everything went well," Professor David said when asked for his reaction to the event. "I wish we had more time for follow-ups. I don't agree with everything [Director McConnell] said — that

was apparent," he added, smiling. "However, it's an opportunity to hear from high-ranking officials. I wanted to hear it straight from the horse's mouth."

Hopkins students' reactions to the hour-long discussion were mixed.

"This is a great event," said Jonathan Jacobs, a FAS staff member. "This is the first time we've been in the national news this year."

Junior Vincent Domestico agreed. "Dr. David's questions touched on some great points," he said.

"It was engaging," junior Dave Rose said. "And it's great to have a cabinet member coming to talk to Johns Hopkins students for free."

Freshmen Harry Black, however, disapproved of McConnell's

somewhat impolite attitude toward David.

"I felt that [McConnell's] tactics were questionable in that he attempted to belittle the intelligence of someone at least as intelligent as he is," he said.

Freshman Caroline Berger was also disappointed with McConnell's statements. "I thought he was biased toward the work he was doing," she said, though she acknowledged that she expected that some bias would be natural.

McConnell is a retired vice admiral of the U.S. Navy. He served first as director of the National Security Agency and then as senior vice president for the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton before his appointment to director of National Intelligence in February 2007.

Death penalty not sought in Walters case

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The state intends to seek two sentences of life without possibility of parole instead.

The State's Attorney's Office was unable to comment further on other aspects of the case prior to trial.

The state's fetal homicide law states: "Nothing in this [law] shall be construed to confer personhood or any rights on the fetus."

The purpose of the law is very specific: to make it a crime to kill a viable fetus. Before the law was enacted, the death of a late-term fetus as a result of the assault or murder of a pregnant woman could not be legally recognized as a homicide. The legislation was enacted in the wake of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, a bill passed by Congress following the well-publicized case of Laci Peterson in California. It was not meant to carry legal and political implications beyond making it a crime to cause the death of a viable fetus.

"Those who favor the right to choose and support abortion were concerned that their opponents would use the new crime of fetal homicide in their anti-abortion arguments, and therefore added this caveat," said Miller. Miller's trial is slated to begin on March 24. It was originally set to begin in early January, but his public defender and lead counsel, Alvin Alston, successfully petitioned for a postponement due to a heavy case load that would have left him ill-prepared to begin building a defense.

Walters was shot while sitting in a parked car with her friend

Heather Lowe outside of a shopping mall in Parkville, Md., just outside the Baltimore City limits. Lowe was also shot, suffering extensive injuries to her face.

State's evidence against Miller includes three witnesses so far: Lowe, Ronald Underwood and Craig Grey. Underwood was not present at the scene of the crime but told police that Miller picked him up shortly after it occurred and might therefore provide testimony as to the defendant's state of mind after Walters's killing. The weapon traced back to the murder was retrieved from Grey, who is Miller's cousin. The state's theory is that Miller gave the gun to his cousin to hide. Miller has denied giving it to Grey.

Surveillance tapes capturing the event will also be introduced into evidence. Additionally, Miller's fingerprints were found on the outside of the car in which Walters and Lowe were shot. Circumstantial evidence also exists against Miller: In the weeks leading up to the murder, it was discovered that Miller visited a practice shooting range on more than one occasion.

Lowe identified Miller to the police almost immediately, and an extensive manhunt was launched. Miller surrendered himself to the police the next day. However, he gave no confession and made no incriminating statements to the police.

"He has not admitted to anything. He wants to vigorously fight this case," Alston said.



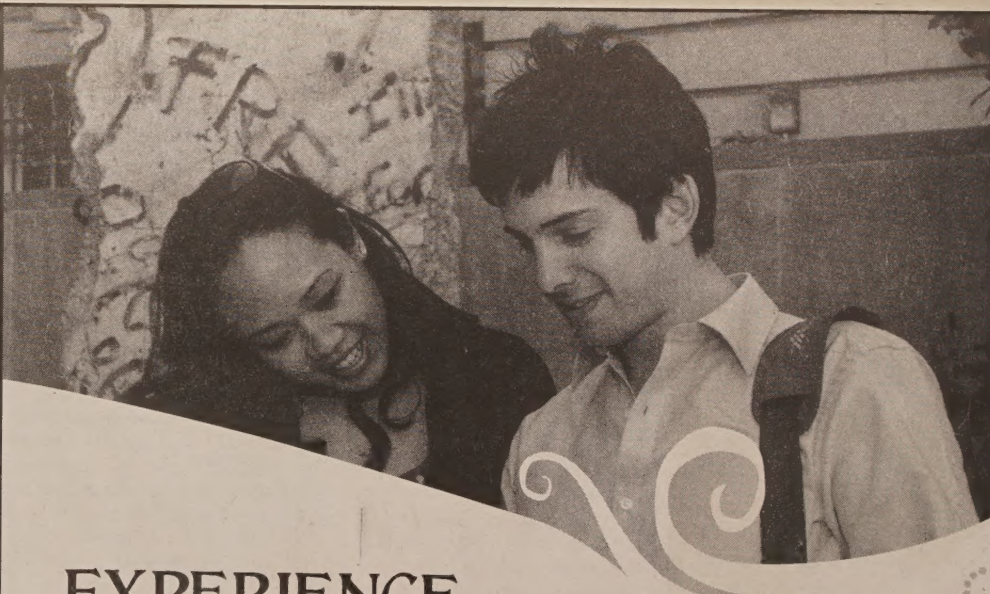
JOHN PRENDERGASS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Elizabeth Walters was well-loved by Hopkins students who frequented CVP.

Alston compared the scale of the proceedings to that of a capital case, although it is not a case involving the death penalty. Another public defender, Sherry Bailey, has been assigned to assist Alston in going through all of the State's evidence and developing defense strategies.

"A case of this magnitude, they normally assign two [lawyers] because there's so much work to be done on it, and it's better to have two in a case like this. This is almost as close to a capital case as you're going to get," Alston said.

Miller, who is married, had reportedly fathered Walters's baby after becoming romantically involved with her. He is being held at the Baltimore County Detention Center without bail.

The presiding judge is the Honorable Dana Levitz, who Alston describes as "a good judge, a fair judge, a 'Judge's Judge,'" one who "knows the law" and "gives everybody a fair shake in court. That's all you can ask for."



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NEWS & FEATURES

Search committee faces sweeping task in picking Brody's successor

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"I don't believe things will change at all," Morris Offit, member of the Board of Trustees and chairman of the Board's last two presidential search committees, including the one that chose Brody in 1996.

Dean Burger seconded the idea, saying, "I think that the University is on a wonderful trajectory and I am confident that we will find someone to continue us on that same trajectory. With any such major transition like this, there is a little lost time, but, on the other hand, new leadership often puts new wind in the sails."

In reaction to the news of Brody's departure, Jerome Schnydmann, executive assistant to the president, said, "My guess is he has thought about it for a while because this is a difficult decision to make, as to when he would retire — what would be the right time, the best time for Hopkins and the best time for him."

Some administrators were not surprised with Brody's announcement.

"Given certain vibrations over the last year or two, it wasn't too surprising," Offit said. "This is the longest he's served in any function of this nature."

George Washington University President and former Hop-

kins Provost Steven Knapp, said Brody had spoken with important figures in Hopkins leadership before making his public announcement.

"He gave me a call a couple of days ahead of time," Knapp said. "He wanted to give notice to important political figures and trustees before making the public announcement."

Such a transition will begin taking place this year, as the search begins to find a replacement.

According to Dennis O'Shea, Hopkins director of communications and public affairs, speaking on behalf of the University and Pamela Flaherty, chair of the Board of Trustees, the replacement process "is a function of the Board, perhaps its most important function."

O'Shea referred directly to Hopkins students, faculty and others when he said, "Mrs. Flaherty and the rest of the Board have already said that there will be a procedure by which members of the community can inform the process."

Flaherty will appoint a search committee consisting of trustees, faculty and students. She has proposed that open meetings be held for both students and faculty, where both can voice their opinions.

Frances Ferguson, a professor of English who sat on the search committee that hired Brody, said although Brody is a physician and an engineer and has the experience needed to run the hospital, an expert in the humanities could certainly be his successor.

"Certainly a humanist can do it, but it would be crazy for the search committee to go into a search looking for someone particular," she said.

One of the most striking aspects of the selection process is the small number of candidates who rise to the top, according to Ferguson.

"You can't try to fig-

ure out what type of person is the right type of person," she said. "You have to do interviews and see who is the right type of person. The important thing is quality of mind and willingness to see all the components of a university."

As of now, the exact size and makeup of the committee remains undecided.

With Brody's presidency coming to a close, University officials are looking back at the impact his tenure has had on Hopkins.

Ferguson related an instance during the search committee's interview with Brody, when someone asked him, "Why do you think you would be good for this job?" Brody paused and said, "These jobs are important and someone has to do them."

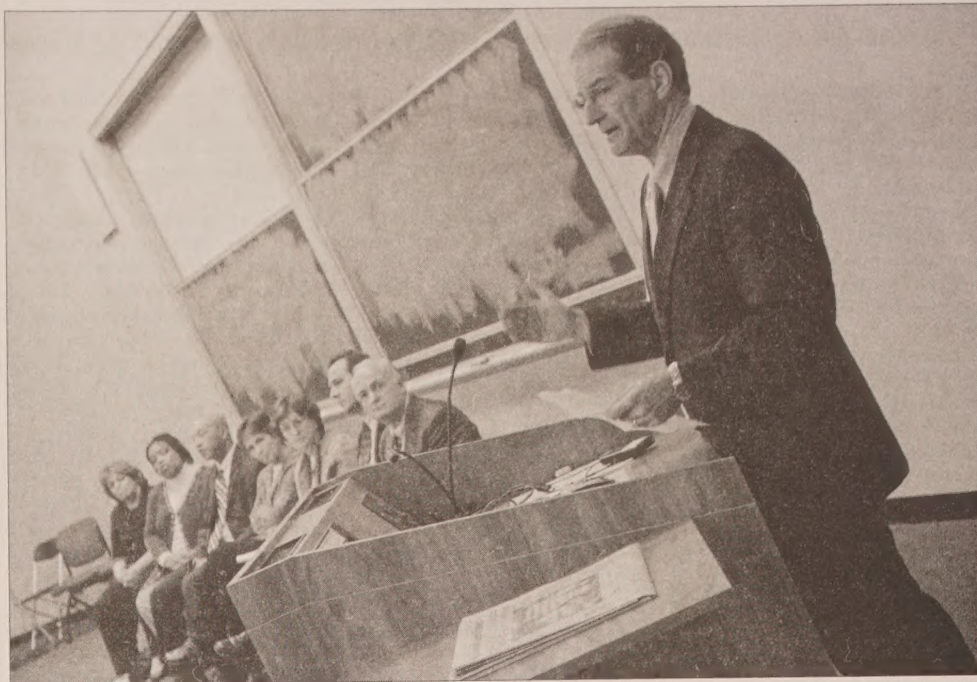
"It was an impressive moment," she said. "We saw the extent to which he recognized how vital it is for us to have strong leadership. A lot of candidates answered this question saying 'I am an important person; I had an important job.' He took on the role because it was hard and needed to be done, not because he put himself first. He takes his job seriously, and has a strong appreciation for significant values of higher education."

All agree Brody's fundraising abilities were unprecedented at the University. In reaction to whether the ability to fundraise would play an important role in the selection of the next president, Burger replied it would certainly be a factor.

"The ability to fundraise is important in our search — it is simply the nature of private education, and even public, to a growing extent these days, that fundraising is so necessary," she said.

Burger explained that the University values not only fundraising but "friend-raising as well."

"Those who are credible at fundraising and are able to make significant relationships with others for the school are those who are able to passionately con-



FILE PHOTO

Brody was forced to quell a public outcry and intense media scrutiny over Sigma Chi's "Halloween in the Hood" party last year.

vey the import of Hopkins and its role in knowledge and education. President Brody is very much in tune with the University's lifeblood," she said.

However, as Knapp noted, "the success of fundraising is easy to quantify. Brody's other successes have been qualitative." Both Burger and Knapp pointed to the construction of new buildings, such as the new computational sciences building or Hodson Hall, as well as the beautification of Homewood as examples of Brody's accomplishments.

"Under his presidency, Hopkins saw a complete transformation of Homewood ... Not too long ago, macadam roads used to run through the campus. Now it is a beautiful pedestrian campus," Knapp said.

Additionally, Brody has had a large impact on how divisions within the University work together.

"President Brody has made a huge contribution in getting

different parts of the University working together on the same page on the same problems," O'Shea said. "There has been a significant increase in interdisciplinary research not only across departments but also across schools and divisions. He said going into his presidency that he would emphasize the importance of breaking down barriers between departments and he has."

Externally, too, Brody has "worked hard at resolving the complicated governance system between the University and the medical system, for instance," Burger said.

Most of all, people pointed to his success simply as a role model for higher education learning, such as, as Burger said, the fact that he received his pilot's license, improved his piano-playing abilities, learned Mandarin Chinese and taught Intersession courses, all as Hopkins president.

"His appreciation for issues of academic freedom has been very

important," Ferguson said. "He has been an eloquent spokesperson for importance of free access to real intellectual training for students from all over the world."

Brody struggled the most during his time as president with the two murders that took place near Homewood a few years ago.

"I know that Dr. Brody took them very much to heart," Knapp said.

Schnydmann added to that unfortunate list the death of a healthy volunteer down at the hospital a few years back.

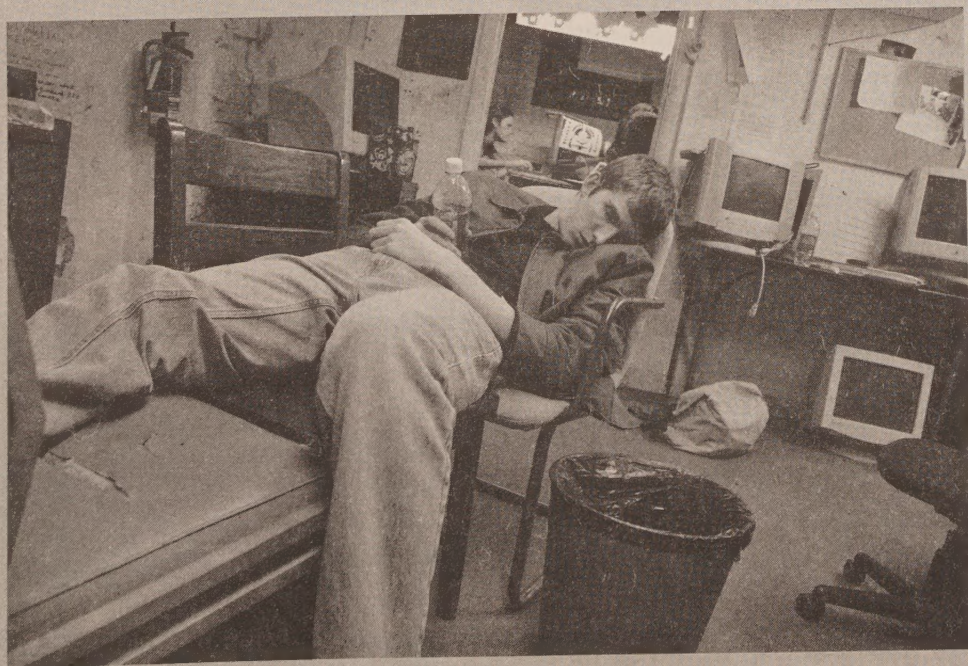
In any case, President Brody will remain here until the end of the calendar year. As he himself declared in his announcement e-mail, "There is plenty of time for [goodbyes]. I'll see you in the coming months, at lacrosse games and Commencement, on the quads and in the corridors. Until I do see you, please know that I am proud of you, grateful to you and ever thankful to be, like you, from Johns Hopkins."



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Brody cuts the ribbon opening at Charles Commons, one of many capital projects during his tenure.

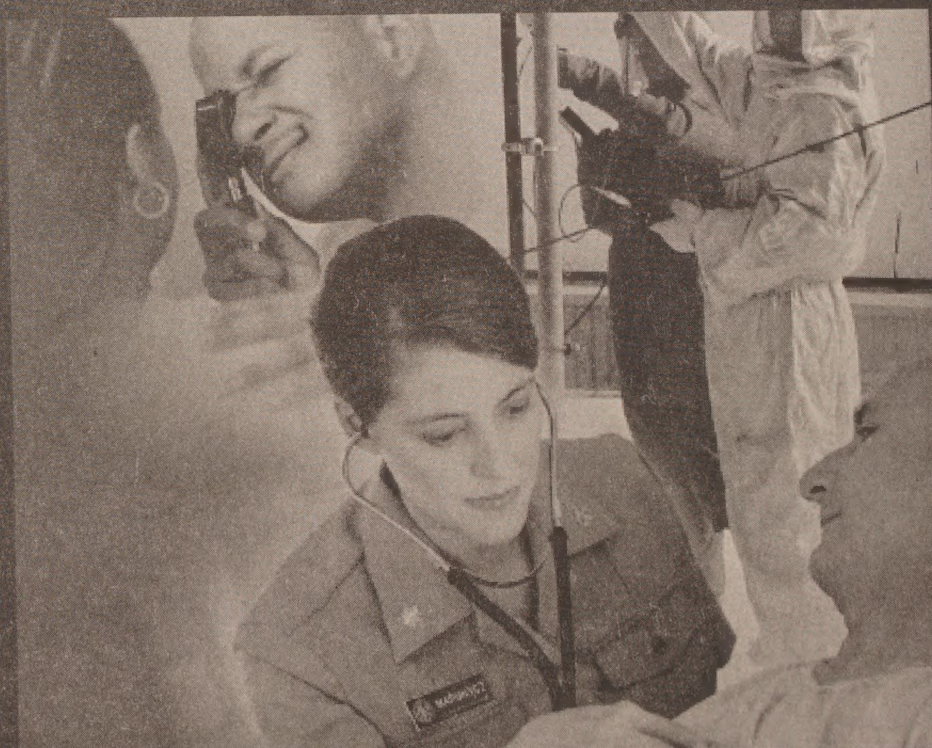
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East Baltimore neighborhood shaped by conflicts and compromises

Two coalitions representing different factions in Middle East Baltimore are working to shape the community's identity after development and resident relocation have affected the area

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responsible for managing the 80-acre development, which is anchored by a biotechnology research park.

Save the Middle East Action Committee (SMEAC) is a grassroots community organization dedicated for advocating the interests of Middle East Baltimore residents.

"I wouldn't call us partners, but we're not adversaries either. We're working together to get the best for the people in the area," said Lewis, who serves as the organization's vice chair.

EBDI Chief Real Estate Officer Christopher Shea stressed the importance of the organization's relationship with SMEAC and the resident community.

"It is important that there is an organized expression from the community, and SMEAC is that. They have been extremely valuable and extremely constructive in being that organized voice in a depopulated community," Shea said.

But beneath this cooperation there is conflict, which Lewis feels stems from the different way they view the people of Middle East Baltimore.

"For [EBDI], they are residents. For us, they are neighbors," she said.

At meeting on Wednesday intended to address the community identity of the "New East Baltimore," several residents felt EBDI was not doing enough to communicate on the redevelopment's progress.

"We're not getting the message. There should have been communication between you and SMEAC so they could make announcements," one resident said.

EBDI Director of Communica-

tions Helen Szablya responded that she had hand-delivered fliers to SMEAC for distribution.

Lewis said that even after SMEAC goes door-to-door to keep residents updated, they often "find people that don't know what is going on."

Though they acknowledge the perceived lack of communication with current residents of Middle East Baltimore, Szablya said that EBDI communicates with residents through a monthly newsletter and meetings with the community.

— LESLIE LEWIS,
SMEAC VICE CHAIR

Director of Community Affairs Deidra Bishop.

Bishop is a liaison between Hopkins and the Middle East Baltimore community.

Szablya cited positive response to family advocates, who provide assistance families relocated in the recently completed Phase I of construction, as well as to those who will be affected by subsequent phases.

According to a recently conducted independent survey, out of the 396 families relocated to make room for construction, 90 percent reported satisfaction with their new home.

Eighty-three percent consider themselves better off than they were before relocation.

Although she had a positive experience during relocation,

Lewis said that the firsthand knowledge she garnered during debates with EBDI gave her an insight that other residents do not have.

Several residents expressed optimism that the redevelopment project will create a positive identity for the area.

"We don't want to make any predictions ... right now it looks like everything is going fine. We'll wait and see what happens next," said Pastor K.C. Wilks of the First John Tabernacle Church.

But Lewis wondered if this new identity is worth the loss of the old one.

"In giving us an opportunity for better EBDI has succeeded, but it's sometimes hard to let go of the past. Right now the identity is faded. You don't know what it is and you can't see what it was," she said.

Lewis said she would consider moving back into the neighborhood once more housing is opened.

EBDI recently opened workforce housing, which is nearly 50 percent full, with 70 percent of those residents returning after relocation.

A senior citizen housing building called Ashland Common is nearly 80 percent full, with

70 percent of those residents returning after relocation.

Charlotte Johnson, who has lived in East Baltimore for almost 60 years, was a homeowner but made the decision to become a renter so that she could stay in the area.

She said that with 100 residents and only one elevator, living in Ashland Commons is a difficult situation.

EBDI noted that the building

EBDI is working very hard to take care of these issues.

— DEIDRA BISHOP,
JOHNS HOPKINS
INSTITUTIONS DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



Judy Banks discussed issues at a SMEAC meeting. The grassroots group represents the needs and concerns of area residents.

meets city regulations.

For now, EBDI and SMEAC will continue to work together in creating new initiatives.

Currently, SMEAC is fighting for the continuation of services provided during the first phase of construction through this second phase.

At a Monday meeting the organization held with residents, student attorneys for SMEAC from the Community Development Clinic of the University of Baltimore's Law School presented on tax breaks for renters.

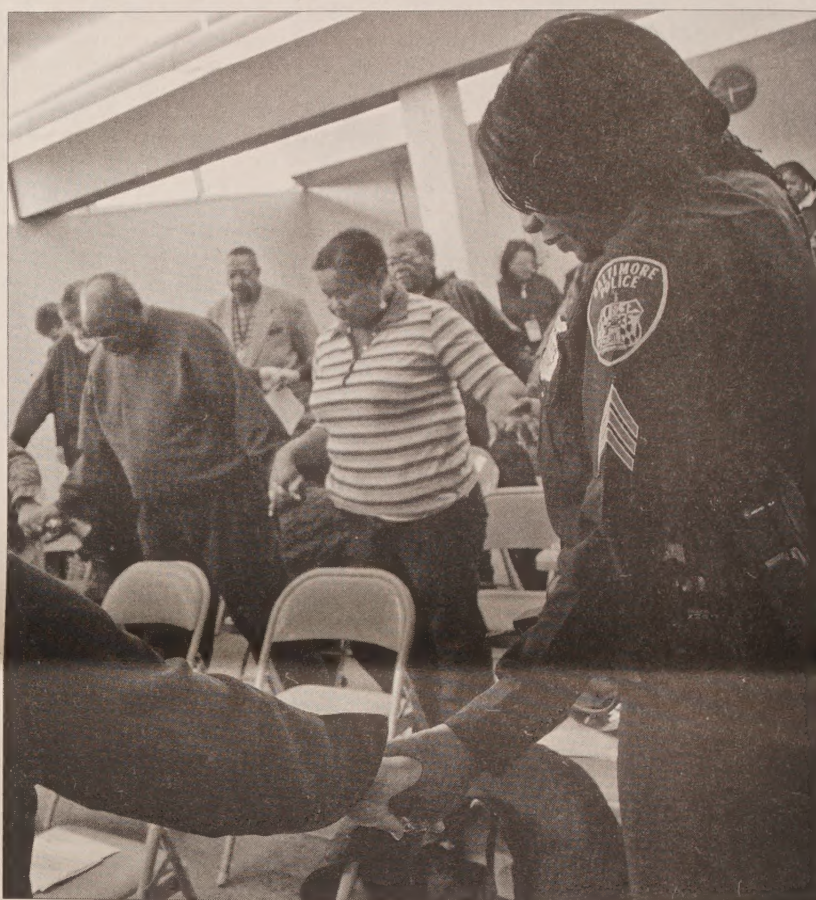
SMEAC hopes that the EBDI Vacant Housing Rehabilitation Program, also known as the

"House for a House" home ownership access program, will allow residents to avoid relocation and remain in the Middle East Baltimore community.

EBDI has developed plans to rehabilitate 20 fully-rehabbed home ownership units by the end of the year, according to a letter from president Jack Shannon to SMEAC.

Shea said that he believes that the "House for a House" program will hopefully be the most successful housing program in the project, because "it has its roots in the realities of people's lives."

Donald Gresham, the president of SMEAC, said that many residents see Hopkins as a major player in the development.



Middle East Baltimore residents gather in prayer at the EBDI offices before a meeting last Monday.

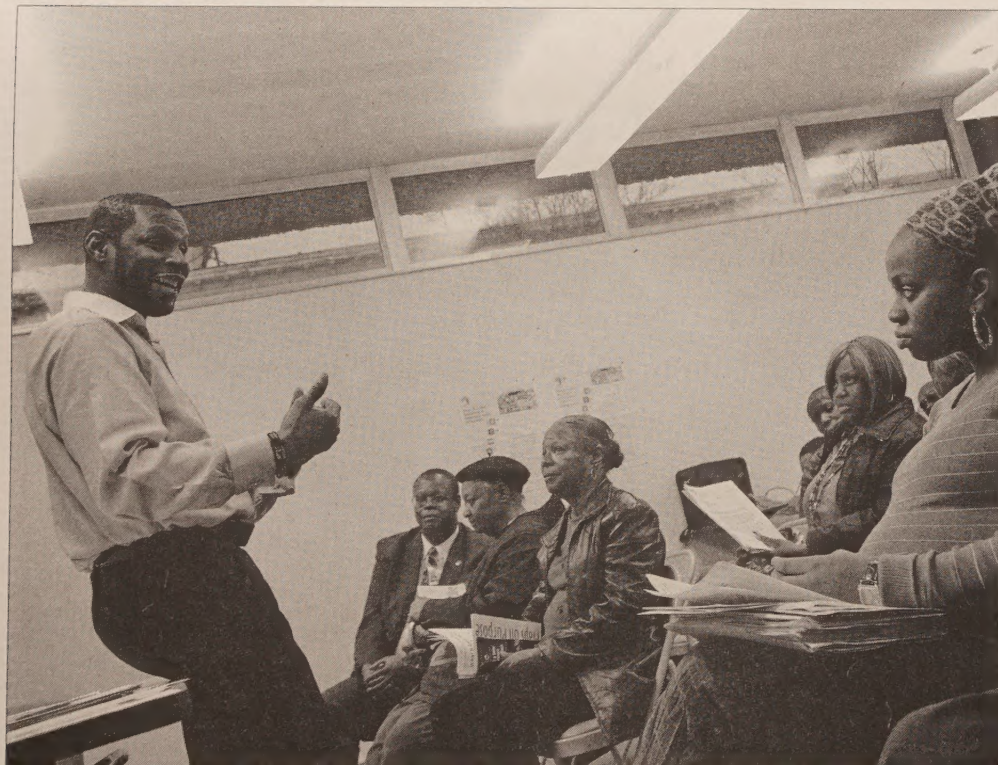
"I think Johns Hopkins can do better financially. I think it can be more community-friendly, and it isn't. The institution has not shown these people in this community that they are important," he said.

Szablya said that while Hopkins has been a very important critical partner and investor, the University does not own any-

thing.

"Johns Hopkins is a major partner in the effort, along with the city, state and federal governments and the foundation community, but the effort is run by EBDI," Hopkins Spokesman Dennis O'Shea said.

— Additional reporting by Marie Cushing



SMEAC President Donald Grisham provides information to Chabria Thomas (R) and other Middle East Baltimore residents.

CORRECTIONS

In the interview with Paul Mathews in the March 6 edition, the name of Pierrot Lunaire was spelled incorrectly. It is a piece by Arnold Schoenberg and not a pianist.

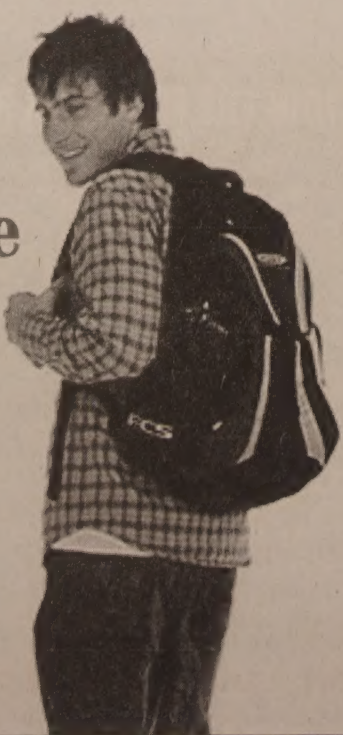
The News-Letter regrets this error.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Carjacking shocks campus security

By ROSS LINKER
News-Letter Staff Writer

A carjacking last Thursday, which spread onto the Homewood campus, led to miscommunication and the unnecessary lockdown of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library.

While security felt they had the incident under control, a contracted security guard who misheard the incident over the radio locked down the library without authorization. Security officials did not know that the lockdown had occurred until an hour and a half later.

"At no point was anyone in danger on our campus," Hopkins Security Lieutenant of Investigations Steven Ossmus said.

Early Thursday morning, Hopkins security dispatchers were contacted by the Baltimore police. Officers in pursuit of a car for traffic violations requested assistance after the vehicle began heading toward Homewood.

When security used their radio system to relay information, custodial staff using the same system misheard what was said, according to Ossmus.

"Custodial staff took it upon themselves to act," he said. Custodians relayed their misinterpreted version of the incident to each other; the message was then overheard by a security guard at the MSE Library.

"There was a miscommunication by the [library's] contract guard about

the pursuit of individuals and guns," Ossmus said.

Contract guards are not part of Allied Barton, the company that provides University security, but are hired individually and are not affiliated with Hopkins security.

Hopkins security decided not to send out an emergency text to students because they felt the situation was secure.

"I feel like [security] did students a disservice by not making use of their emergency text messaging system," freshman Justin Shen said.

According to security, the text system would only be used if there were an imminent threat to people on campus and this event did not meet those standards.

Many students were oblivious to the carjacking. "I wasn't even aware that a lockdown occurred," student Eddie Holzinger said.

To the students in the library at the time of the lockdown, a similar feeling was prevalent.

"All we knew was that a robbery had occurred and one of the gunmen got away and we didn't know where he was," freshman Harry Black said.

"This was a lack of communication between officers and the

library. In the future it would be better if there was more communication. Everyone should be notified about something like this," Black said.

"I was surprised to hear for the first time there was an emergency when attempting to leave," freshman Josh Ayal said. "It's disappointing to hear that there's so little communication

when something potentially disastrous is occurring," Ayal said.

As the car drove past the Mattin Center, it made a sharp turn and crashed into a pole. The driver and passenger, both juveniles, ran out of the car in different directions.

When the damaged car was examined, two BB guns were found but no firearms were discovered.

"Hopkins would not have been involved if the assailant did not hit the pole," Ossmus said.

One of the youths, approximately 14 years old, was apprehended by a sergeant after entering the main University area.

Since the other suspect never appeared on security cameras, guards believed the alleged passenger never entered campus.

"We were very comfortable that the individual did leave," Ossmus said.

I feel like [security] did students a disservice by not making use of their emergency text messaging system.

— JUSTIN SHEN, FRESHMAN

JHU recycling boosted by competition

By PHYLLIS ZHU
For The News-Letter

Outside Gilman and MSE are brown canisters topped with green; the recycling bins are one of a variety of initiatives to increase participation in the recycling program at Homewood.

Important to the expansion of student participation is the launch of RecycleMania, a national contest. The competition is being run by several student groups, such as Students for Environmental Action (SEA), HEAT and ECO-reps.

This is Hopkins's first year participating in the program; the statistics of Hopkins recycling are lower than they should be. Currently, the University is recycling around 20 percent of its waste, when it should be recycling 40 to 50 percent.

Richard Abraham, the Manager of Recycling and Solid Waste, has enacted several changes in Hopkins changes in the recycling program since he began working at Hopkins in 2007.

"One of my concerns was the unsightliness of the way things were being handled. Loose trash bags were being thrown outside and piled in front of buildings," Abraham said.

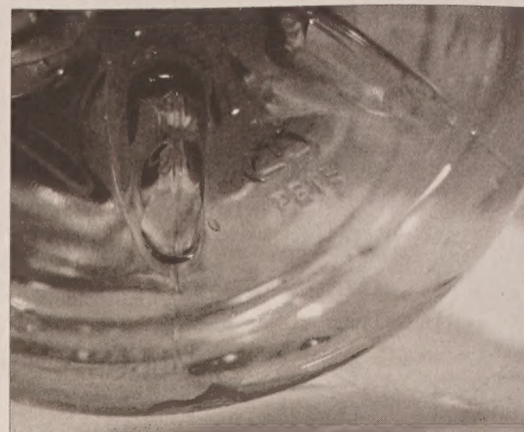
The University began improving the program with the implementation of "toters," or larger plastic containers, in many buildings like Bloomberg, the Recreation Center and the library.

Along with the switch to toters, the recycling program has also been streamlined by replacing individual trash containers with compacters, more modern, consolidated equipment in a single storage area and the hiring of students to work part-time for the department.

Even with these improvements, Abraham asserts that there is further room for improvement. "We need students to be our ears and eyes to make sure the custodians are doing their jobs," he said.

Among the problems with the current program is that the

recycling bins are not well-marked; a green lid signifies recycling, while an open top is for trash. Sometimes the custodial staff members mix up the black bags for trash with the white bags for recycling.



BRITINI CROCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Hopkins students could be more active in recycling bottles and cans.

The impact of recycling on the University is two-fold: environmental and the monetary. While the University is concerned about the state of the environment, the production of less trash and an increase in recycling is financially beneficial, according to Abraham. Money is lost in tipping fees for trash removal and the University is paid for recycling. SEA is in close collaboration with the Hopkins recycling department.

"We try to help each other out with promotion and logistics. The administration has been extremely helpful and supportive in regards to recycling. Improvements from previous years are above and beyond what could have been expected," said Julia Blocher, the president of the Hopkins Energy Action Team (HEAT) and the outreach chair for SEA.

The success of recycling is a combination of both administration and students. Davis Bookhart, environmental stewardship manager and chair of the Hopkins Sustainability Committee, acknowledges that from an infrastructure standpoint, many things need to change but students must try to break destructive habits too.

"Students have been remarkable in helping to turn the program around — they conducted surveys and waste audits, made

signs, created informational flyers and have generally been at the forefront of making this a positive and productive program," Bookhart said.

But the groups involved with RecycleMania have high hopes for the program's accomplishments.

"Our biggest obstacle with RecycleMania is that most students believe that Hopkins doesn't recycle ... so many of our recycle bins get contaminated with trash," president of SEA Connie Vogelmann said.

"If one person throws a cup of coffee into a paper recycling bin it ruins the work that everyone before him did," Blocher said.

RecycleMania is a 10-week nationwide recycling competition designed to increase awareness about recycling. Colleges and universities compete to see who can have the greatest recycling per capita, waste minimization and total amount of recycling.

This year, 406 universities, including Harvard, Yale and University of Pennsylvania, as well as several Maryland colleges, are participating. Each week the schools' recyclables are weighed, and the school is ranked by pounds recycled per person.

RecycleMania runs from Jan. 27 through April 5. Hopkins is currently ranked 22nd in the country for the Per Capita Classic division.

Students get credit for creating class

By LAURA DINGLE
For The News-Letter

When a group of students met to discuss a possible speaker series on urban health for this spring semester and expressed their concern about possible low attendance, James Goodyear suggested turning the series into a class.

Offered this semester, Urban Health and Advocacy is an innovative one-credit course which brings health care workers, government officials, community members and advocacy workers to Homewood in order to discuss issues relating to urban health.

Goodyear, associate director of the undergraduate public health studies program, along with Anne Beckemeyer, administrator for the undergraduate Public Health Studies program, both contributed to the creation of the course with the help of around a dozen Public Health majors.

Much of the planning was done by students, particularly — Adam Milam and Sonia Sarkar, who have been the keys to the success of the class. Making the series into a course opened the door for a more involved view of Urban Health in Baltimore.

"We thought it would be important to create a series that was not simply lecture style," junior Sonia Sarkar said.

The class consists of a tour of East Baltimore housing projects, panels featuring prominent city health professionals and opportunities for students to connect with the speakers' causes.

Before the addition of this course the topic of urban studies had not been breached here at Homewood.

"The School of Public Health offers classes that focus on issues of urban health, but nothing of the sort is offered at Homewood — so we thought it would be great to fill that void," Sarkar said.

Senior Adam Milam, another organizer of the course has a personal reason for wanting urban health issues to be more visible at the Homewood campus.

"Being from Baltimore, I think the course is important because it exposes students to the problems that Baltimoreans face as a result of living in an urban environment that has been plagued with major exodus into the suburbs and disinvestments," he said.

Urban Health and Advocacy represents a growing interest in public health on the Homewood campus. Goodyear says that the public health major here at Homewood has been extremely successful, with 97 students graduating this year. But Goodyear has been trying to get the

topic of urban health addressed on campus at Homewood for a couple of years.

Citing that 65 percent of Americans live within a city, Goodyear expressed how urban health is an important element of the public health due to the number of poor people who reside in cities.

"Public health is about poverty in so many ways and Baltimore is a city — a needy city — JHU students live here and it is a great place to learn about public health and to get involved in the practice of public health," Goodyear said.

The initial response to the course has been extremely positive; two days after the course was posted on the registrar's Web site, it was 15 students over the enrollment limit of 50.

"I don't think any of us expected for the class to become what it is currently ... We knew that there would be an interest in urban health issues, but I did not expect so many people to be passionate about the topic," Milam said. "I think the class does reflect a larger interest at Homewood. Many students have expressed interest in the course, but there are not many opportunities for the students to explore these interests."

Dania Joseph, a senior biology major, agreed. "I appreciate the course because it discusses the health disparities in Baltimore city and what we as Johns Hopkins students can do to help. Many people don't really know how many people are affected by health care problems; statistics are staggering. The class helps shed light on these issues," she said.

Since one of the purposes of the class is to expose students to the issue of urban health,

students who are not registered for the course can still attend the speaker series. Rather than merely a lecture, each class involves speakers answering questions from students. Students can also approach the speakers after class to get more information.

"I think the nature of the course [seminar and discussion] allows the undergraduate public health students to integrate their knowledge from diverse coursework, and experiences from internships, research, and volunteer organizations," said Amisha Patel, a senior Public Health Studies major who is in the class.

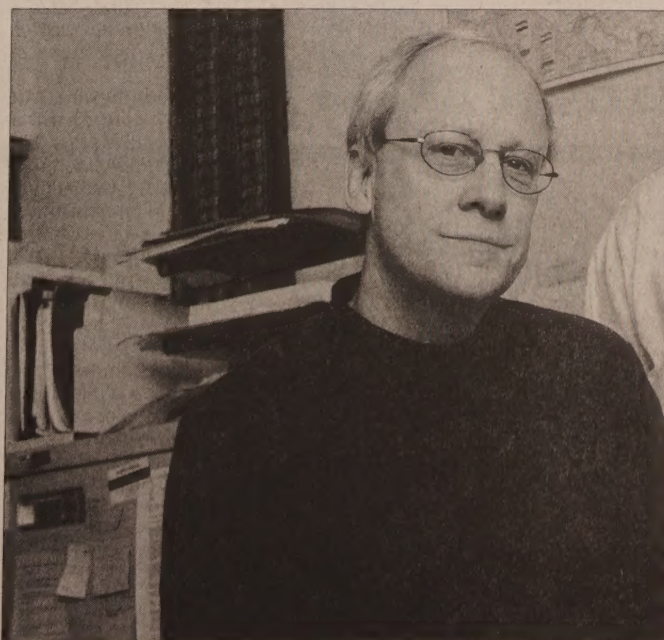
Sarkar says she has seen positive reactions from other students as well.

"Students love the accessibility of the speakers: being able to approach them, get their contact information and even volunteer with them or conduct research with them," Sarkar said.

Students are expected to attend all but two of the classes over the entire semester as well as complete a response paper discussing speakers' views and creating a picture portfolio that represents urban health in Baltimore.

Speakers for this semester include Debbie Rock, president of LIGHT Health & Wellness Inc., Vincent DeMarco, executive director of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Baltimore City health commissioner and Kathy Westcoat, president of Baltimore HealthCare Access.

If everything goes as planned, Urban Health and Advocacy course will also be available next spring.



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Goodyear thought of granting credit, but students put in the effort to create the class.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Climate change heats up foreign affairs panel discussion

Leaders in environmental fields spoke to students about the impending dangers of climate change, debated whether it's still possible to reverse the process

By MICHAEL PISEM
For The News-Letter

Two scientists dominated a panel discussion on climate change Tuesday, debating the reversibility of a possible climate crisis.

During the question and answer portion of Conversation and Sustainability: The Impending Climate Crisis, a part of this year's Foreign Affairs Symposium, Thomas Lovejoy and Terry Maple disagreed on people's responsibility to energy conservation.

Maple, Director of the Palm Beach Zoo, said that climate change could be solved without cutting energy use or changing one's lifestyle.

He claimed that existing and emerging technologies could be used to produce enough energy to meet consumption.

Lovejoy, president of the Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, disagreed.

"Too much CO2 is going up [in the air]," he said. "We may have done it already. A third of Florida might end up underwater."

Preventing climate change "cannot be done" without reducing the amount of CO2 the world emits, he said.

Maple also accused China of having greater CO2 emissions than the United States and said that they had to be stopped. Lovejoy was quick to disagree and pointed that this was not per capita, and the United States has the greatest responsibility to stop climate change.

The first speaker of the evening, Lovejoy discussed a number of climate change examples, ranging from the shrinking of the ice sheets to the changing migratory patterns of checkerspot butterflies.

"The data are statistically robust, and it is clear nature is on the move everywhere in the world," he said.

In the near future, temperatures will continue to rise even if total carbon dioxide emissions are cut to zero, he predicted.

He warned a 2.5 degree rise in temperature would lead to massive "diebacks" in the Amazon and other rainforests, decreasing the planet's ability to absorb CO2 and exacerbating the problem.

Public officials tend to underestimate the problem, and there is a serious potential for a two-foot rise in sea level, which would place parts of America's major cities underwater, according to Lovejoy.

At one point, Lovejoy described the outlook as "bleak" but said that the problem was still manageable, only if a major change was made in energy production and in conservation tactics.

Maple presented a different perspective.

"I am not depressed or intimidated by the truth," Maple said in his opening.

Drawing mainly from his experiences as an ally of former

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, with whom he wrote a book, Maple argued for conservation.

He said that it was a bipartisan issue and that Gingrich disengaged only because it became too "politically hot."

Maple said that zoos are bringing nature to the people and are now drawing more visitors than major league sports games.

Zoos, according to Maple, are making the people appreciate what might be lost from climate change.

The data are statistically robust, and it is clear nature is on the move everywhere in the world.

— THOMAS LOVEJOY,
PRESIDENT OF THE HEINZ
CENTER FOR SCIENCE,
ECONOMICS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT



Thomas Lovejoy and Terry Maple led the discussion on the impending dangers of climate change at Tuesday's FAS panel.

"In the future, a consensus must be built to get stuff done," Maple said.

The bipartisan consensus he described includes partnerships between non-governmental organizations and businesses, as well as increased subsidies for new technology.

The third speaker of the evening, Scott Brown, director of the New Energy Capital Corp., described what he called "a small slice of the solution."

Brown, who has a long history in energy generation, said that new technology made alternative solutions economically feasible.

Now is the time for young people to get involved in the industry and Hopkins students have the education and background to do so, according to Brown.

"The key is signaling to capital markets" that the time is right, and "having willing investors," Brown said. This is the only way

to move forward and cut oil and coal usage.

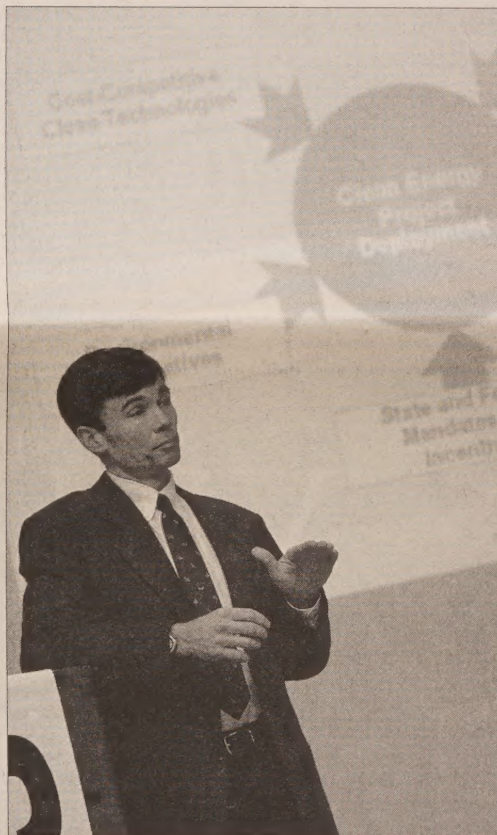
The crowd started small and thinned throughout. By the end, there were fewer than 50 students in attendance. Still, those present left with favorable impressions.

"This a conversation that has to keep happening, and I'm happy Hopkins is interested and aware of global warming," freshman Dakota Devos said.

A former director of the World Wildlife Fund's U.S. branch, Lovejoy is a staunch supporter of preserving the rainforest. Throughout his career, he has consistently focused on the Brazilian Amazon.

Maple co-authored *A Contract With the Earth* with Gingrich. The book examines the potentially dan-

gerous effects of climate change. Maple, a professor at Georgia Tech. and former director of Zoo Atlanta, in addition to his current position, has also written *Zoo Man: Inside the Zoo Revolution and Saving the Giant Panda*.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Scott Brown championed the use of alternative energy sources.

Trustees pick newest member of board

By HUSAIN DANISH
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees has selected senior Michelle Brown as next year's Young Trustee.

They voted on the matter Monday, March 10 and plan to make a formal announcement soon.

"I want to help improve the life of students here at Johns Hopkins. I did my music minor at Peabody. I do my Woodrow Wilson Research at the Medical School. I want to provide the perspective of someone who has voyaged out and seen the things Hopkins has to offer," Brown said.

Every year, one Young Trustee position opens up, and the Board of Trustees elects one graduating senior from the Homewood campus to serve a four-year term as a Young Trustee. Starting next year, Brown will be one of four Young Trustees on the Board and will serve for the next four years.

"I am extremely excited," Brown said.

A neuroscience major with minors in music and theater arts, Brown has been heavily involved in the campus. She is involved with the Wind Ensemble, Barnstormers and Johns Hopkins University Theatre. She worked in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, was a student admissions representative for the last two years and served four years on the student admissions advisory board.

Though a daunting task, Brown is looking forward to the job.

"I think the Board receives the young trustees well. When you are in a room of 50 trustees and four of them are younger than the age of 26, we are definitely noticed. I think their [young trustee] perspective is really valued by the trustees especially those trustees who haven't gone to Hopkins. Your perspective is really taken into consideration by the Board."

The Young Trustee position is not a full-time post, and Brown plans to work for several years before she applies to graduate school.



COURTESY OF MICHELLE BROWN
Senior Michelle Brown was selected to be the University's next Young Trustee.

Tuition up 5 percent for 2008-09 school year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

to changes in their meeting schedule, the Board has voted on the issue, for the last few years, in December.

Students and parents are usually informed of changes in tuition soon after the trustees vote on the issue. This year, however, seems to be an exception. When asked why the University did not make the announcement earlier to coincide with the decision, O'Shea said, "For one thing, people weren't really paying attention in December when there are exams and the holidays. In terms of the work in my office, it is easier to do it at the end of winter."

While the new tuition prices were posted on the financial aid Web site, most students were completely unaware of the deci-

sion.

"I think it is unfair," sophomore Absar Ullahsaid. "We already pay tuition to be here. We have the right to know what is going on. Hopkins needs our money so we have the right to know how much we are going to pay. If Hopkins is going to go with the status quo and not follow the lead of other universities with regards to tuition, we have the right to know."

"This is going to impact both students and their families," freshman Ryan Fay said. "The fact that they still haven't announced the tuition increase after several months makes me feel uneasy about their intentions ... makes me wonder what their reasons are."

When the University does announce the increase, the *Johns*

Hopkins Gazette will publish an article and the Office of Communications and Public Affairs will send out a formal news release.

While Hopkins persists with its old financial aid and tuition system, other universities have made major changes to their programs. Princeton University and Williams College have both introduced one-year tuition caps in the recent past. Harvard announced plans in December to increase financial aid for families earning up to \$180,000 a year, with Yale, Dartmouth and Stanford following in its tracks. On March 10, Columbia University and MIT announced major changes to their financial aid programs to reflect the rising demand for college affordability.

After this weekend's meeting of the Board of Trustees, it appears that Hopkins does not plan to make any changes to its current financial aid system.

"As you may know, admissions decisions, along with financial aid awards, are being made now for the upcoming year," said Dr. James McGill, senior vice president for finance and administration. "Those universities that have changed their financial aid policy have both larger endowments and much more flexibility in the use of their endowment than does Johns Hopkins."

According to McGill, less than 3 percent of the Hopkins endowment is unrestricted and can be used in any manner by the University. Only 7.5 percent of the endowment is allocated to financial aid, "a fraction we [the Board of Trustees] believe is low compared to others. The trustees have information on financial aid and the competitive position in which Hopkins finds itself. Two years ago a trustee committee recommended increased giving for financial aid as a priority for fund-raising," he said. "Indeed, it has been, and likely will occupy a prominent priority in a new fund raising campaign."

SECURITY ALERTS

March 7, 8:45 p.m.:

From AMR I's Wilson House, a student's J-Card and room keys were taken when the student left the room for five minutes. The items were taken from the top of a desk inside the unlocked and unoccupied room. A locksmith changed the door's locks and the student's J-Card was cancelled. An investigation is ongoing.

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NEWS & FEATURES

News In Brief

SAIS picks new D.C. office director

The School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) has appointed a new director.

Effective March 11, G. Eugene Martin will head the Washington, D.C. office of the Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies.

Martin comes to SAIS from the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he was executive director of the Philippine Facilitation Project in the Center for Mediation and Conflict Resolution.

Prior to holding that position, Martin served as an officer in the U.S. Foreign Service as deputy chief of mission, a political military officer in the Philippines and consul general in Guangzhou.

He most recently served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Martin also worked in D.C. for several offices, including the State Department.

After growing up in India, Martin attended Kalamazoo College and received a B.A. in political science and economics.

He received his graduate degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

— Alex Vockroth



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.USIP.ORG
SAIS will welcome G. Eugene Martin as head of the D.C. office of the Hopkins-Nanjing Center.

ognizes nonprofit groups that work to improve care offered to medically underserved populations.

The award, sponsored by Premier Inc., was granted to the program along with a \$24,000 prize.

The School of Nursing's birth companions program was established in 1999 and offers free doula assistance to poor mothers in Baltimore.

Doulas are nursing students who provide women with emotional and physical support and education during pregnancy, throughout labor and after birth.

— Alex Vockroth

Colon cancer test research provides invasive surgery alternatives

Getting screened for colon cancer may become as easy as



COURTESY OF WWW.MEDGADGET.COM
The PillCam is a remarkable new, non-invasive method of screening for colon cancer.

swallowing a pill. The PillCam is a small camera contained within a pill-like capsule, and it recently became available for patients in both Europe and Israel.

The camera-pill will pass through the swallower's digestive track, taking four images per second, which are then sent to a data recorder, which the patient wears around the waist.

This system seems to be safer than the virtual colonoscopy because there is no exposure to radiation. Given Imaging Ltd., the company manufacturing the device, had its application for marketing in the United States turned down by the Food and Drug Administration.

Hopkins researchers are in the process of developing a blood test that can screen the colon for cancerous cells. Researchers claim that the test can be available in as little as two or three years.

Robert Getzenberg is a Hopkins cancer researcher investigating multiple proteins in the blood that serve as telltale signs of abnormal growth.

An escalated level of a particular protein appears to match with that of a developing growth called a polyp.

Patients with higher levels of this protein could be monitored to ensure that everything is all right, while those with the highest levels could be further tested with a colonoscopy.

Bert Vogelstein, another cancer researcher at Hopkins, is looking at how DNA mutations which can be identified in blood samples could become a way to screen for colon cancer and other abnormalities.

— Heather Barbakoff

Howard Univ. student arrested in relation to shooting

The arrest of a Howard University student in the Feb. 29 shooting at the University Town Center in Hyattsville, Md. has sent shockwaves through the University community.

Arlen Garrett was arrested, and a second suspect, Mashele Ellis, is also being held. Garrett and Ellis have been charged with second-degree murder in the death of Donald James Smalls Jr., who was visiting his girlfriend, a Howard student.

According to the Prince George's County Police Department, both suspects went to the Town Center to meet Smalls. Their meeting soon turned into a physical struggle which ended when Smalls was shot in the lower body. The suspects then fled the scene of the crime immediately; Smalls died soon after being rushed to the hospital.

Garrett, a jazz studies major, jazz pianist and former Howard soccer player, has been suspended from the University and barred from all campus activities until a verdict is reached. If the suspects are convicted of second-degree murder, they may face up to life sentences in prison.

— Liz Schwartzberg

Anti-genocide group at Univ. of Delaware urges divestment

At the University of Delaware, STAND, the student-led anti-genocide coalition on campus, has been speaking out to pressure the University to divest from Sudan.

As Divestment from Sudan

Other College News

has already been implemented by 59 universities in 23 states and 16 cities, STAND members are questioning what is taking so long for their University to follow suit.

STAND has faced resistance from administration members in their mission to find out whether or not the University's endowment has been invested in any black-listed foreign companies cooperating with the Sudanese government. The University's Student Government Association passed a resolution on March 3 in support of the University's divestment from Sudan, but their efforts thus far have been unsuccessful.

The administration has told STAND that it is not in the University's best interest to disclose financial information to students. Scott Douglas, executive vice president and treasurer at the Univ. of Delaware, has questioned whether or not divestment is an effective way to tackle genocide in Sudan due to the enormity of the issue. The University's chapter of STAND formed one year ago.

— Liz Schwartzberg

Bill giving Md. grad students right to unionize fails in Assembly

Legislation proposed to provide teaching assistants and adjunct professors with collective-bargaining rights failed to pass in the Maryland General Assembly last week.

If signed into law, the legislation would have allowed TAs and adjuncts at public universities in the state to negotiate matters relating to pay, benefits and teaching workloads.

Democratic Del. Barbara A. Frush introduced the legislation in the House of Delegates, but the bill did not go beyond the Appropriations Committee.

Sen. Jamin Raskin, a Democrat who sponsored the legislation in the Senate, will withdraw the bill.

Analysts have estimated costs of union negotiations with graduate-student TAs at \$1.3 million.

— Alex Vockroth

Parking discount encourages students to stay green

The University of Maryland, College Park, will begin offering students parking permit discounts for "green" cars.

Starting in the 2008-09 academic year, students who own a car that can get 37 or more miles to the gallon will be able to purchase a "green" parking permit.

The permit will cost two-thirds of the regular permit price for both commuter and resident students.

While the overall price of parking will increase by 4 percent, students qualifying for the green permit will still be paying considerably less. The increase in prices is not related to the discount.

Commuter students will pay \$213 for a regular permit and \$142 for a green permit; a resident student will pay \$412 regularly or \$275 for a green permit.

David Allen, director of Transportation Services, predicts that the department will lose up to \$20,000 due to the discount awarded to green permits.

He hopes that the green permit opportunity will allow students to reduce their carbon footprint. The budget strain will be able to be absorbed.

The University will not put a limit on the number of drivers who can apply for a green permit, but if demand is too high, the administration may have to reevaluate the program's qualifications.

— Heather Barbakoff

Hopkins birthing program wins national award

The birth companions program at Hopkins School of Nursing received a national award presented to only six organizations each year.

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A stimulating discussion: answering sexy questions

I don't so much have a question as I want tips on how to give better cummingus.

For starters, don't listen to your male friends. Secondly, don't believe all the fuss about the alphabet technique or the counting trick. If you haven't heard of them, these techniques are based on either "writing" letters or drawing the numbers from 1 to 50 or some random number with your tongue. That seems like a good idea — it gives you variety and a way to keep paying attention for a decent length of time. However, as good as that feels, you can very easily double or triple the pleasure.

If you consider even the simplest anatomical aspects of the vulva, you can figure out a lot of the best methods. We all know what labia look like, and, given that configuration, the technique is easily derived. Trace the contours, especially the point, and vary between short and long strokes. The area nearest the opening of the vagina is easily the most sensitive. That said, tongue penetration, shallow or more enthusiastic, is virtually guaranteed to garner some significant praise.

Don't be afraid to be a little rougher with the clitoris, though (light) biting should only be attempted if she shows an inclination toward pain for pleasure.

Last tip: never tell a girl she tastes bad or acidic or anything else negative. A lot of girls are insecure about getting eaten out, so be nice.

Could you tell me more about the supposed nutritional value of semen? Some call it a "protein shake."

Well I wouldn't base an exercise regimen on a diet of blow jobs. The "ingredients" of semen are sperm, sugar, water, vitamin C, enzymes, proteins, basic buffers and zinc. And since each ejaculation is between a quarter teaspoon and a teaspoon and a half, you'd have to be ingesting

more than two gallons to get any nutritional value.

So yes, there's protein in semen, but not enough to constitute actual sustenance.

How can I stimulate my boyfriend's prostate?

You have two options: the "one in the stink" and a more external technique. For penetration, make sure you use lubrication. You may also want to consider using gloves or finger condoms.

The best method is similar to how you would stimulate a girl's G-spot. Locate the button-like area, and make a "come hither" motion with your finger(s), curling toward his stomach.

The lesser-known method doesn't involve any anal penetration. If done properly it can have



Grace Gwendolyn Henry
That's What She Said

the same effect. The key is to put pressure on the perineum, which is the skin between the testicles and the anus. Best plan is to use your thumb or a finger or two to press lightly and watch and listen for cues about how much harder he'd like you to go. It's also important to either make out while you're doing this

or to do it during a blow job. If it is during a blow job, press a bit harder right before orgasm, and maybe you'll get an orgasm multiplier.

I know a guy with a small penis. What should he do, hypothetically? Focus on the clit while he's doing a chick? It's not me, I swear.

He could focus on the clit, sure. He could also try supplementing, and I don't mean with pills or pumps. I don't really encourage this kind of cheating, but he should consider adding a finger or two. As I've already mentioned, the outermost third of the vagina is the most innervated. That said, the extra girth there can help more than length.

Please send your questions to grace.henry@jhunewsletter.com.

Critters, Cancun and "bugging" out over break

Too many of my friends are going to Mexico for spring break, no doubt for the tequila sunrise, sex on the beach, margaritas with tortillas and — for the boys — Brazilian-cut bikinis.

But if you're going abroad for break (especially if you're going to Central America) there are recommended vaccinations for before you leave. The Centers for Disease Control advise you to get your shots and vaccines for:

- Hepatitis A and B
- measles/mumps/rubella (MMR)
- typhoid
- rabies
- tetanus-diphtheria

Check your shot record, and make sure you're up to date.

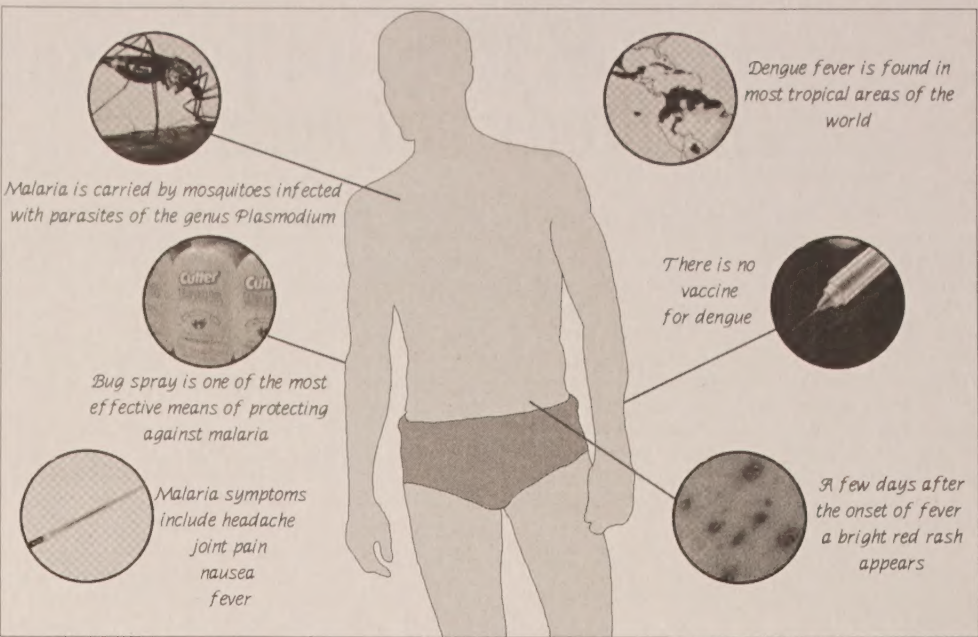
Even if you pump yourself full of helpful viruses and bacteria, it's possible you'll pick up a few bugs in foreign countries — particularly if you're off to South or Central America.

The most common traveler's curse is diarrhea. Traveler's Diarrhea (TD) is actually a real clinical syndrome. When you travel from an area of good sanitation to one of lesser sanitation, the food and water you ingest might include some new microbes and miniscule creepy-crawlies just dying to get in your gut.

The most common cause of TD is *E. coli*, although a multitude of other bacteria such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter jejuni* can cause more serious versions of diarrhea. The best way to avoid TD is to eat packaged foods, drink bottled (or boiled) water, avoid undercooked meat and raw vegetables and generally avoid eating food that comes from unhygienic-looking street vendors.

If you are visiting the malaria risk regions of Central America (which has several hotspots), use bug spray often. Malaria is carried by mosquitoes infected with parasites of the genus *Plasmodium*. Symptoms show up 10 to 15 days after infection and include headache, joint pain, nausea, vomiting, chills, sweating and fever.

If not treated quickly, malaria can become serious and is often fatal. Spring break only



MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR

gives you 11 days — hopefully if you've contracted malaria, you'll be back in America by the time it shows.

Malaria is not the only disease passed about by blood-sucking arthropods. If you plan on leaving the beach and margaritas in favor of exploring the more tropical regions of Central America, the bugs you encounter may carry disease-causing parasites or viruses.

Three species of parasitic worms that love to live in your lymphatic system can cause Lymphatic Filariasis, also known as Elephantiasis. Female worms release larvae into the blood stream, where it can be picked up by visiting *Aedes* mosquitoes and carried to the sucker's next victim.

While the larvae don't do much until they mature, the adult worm will live in the lymphatic vessels and eventually cause painful and disfiguring swelling, or lymphedema, in the lower extremities and genitalia.

Treatment consists of drugs that will kill circulating microfilariae and most adult worms, but sometimes surgery is required in cases of well-advanced lymphedema.

Dengue is another disease found in most tropical areas of the world. Blame the *Aedes* mos-

quitoes — by now, a clearly pestilent little beast, since they also transmit yellow fever and encephalitis.

Much like malaria, dengue fever manifests itself after a brief incubation period (in this case, generally four to seven days) and causes joint pain and headaches, fever, nausea and vomiting. A few days after the onset of fever, a bright red rash appears. In one percent of all cases, dengue fever may progress to dengue hemorrhagic fever, which can be lethal. There is no vaccine against dengue fever, so it's best to simply stay away from buggy areas — or just wear a bubble.

Unfortunately for *Homo sapiens* and other fuzz-covered animals, mosquitoes are not the only buzzing bags of pestilence. Black flies carry the lovely nematode *Onchocerca volvulus*, a sweet little worm that dies only after depositing larvae that spread throughout the body. This causes itching, rashes and lesions.

It also leads to onchocerciasis, an extreme immune response that will kill nearby tissue. The eyeball is often a victim to the disease, which is why it is more commonly known as River Blindness (since black flies live near rivers and streams. There's no vaccine to prevent River Blindness, and while drugs can kill the larvae, the adult worms will live for many years in the body.

My personal favorite tropical disease is myiasis, which is caused by botflies, blowflies and fleshflies (what a lovely name).

Myiasis happens when fly lar-

vae — maggots, for those of you who've never come across a long-dead deer — feed off of the living host's tissue. If you eat food with fly larvae in it, you may get intestinal myiasis.

Often, however, the female fly will lay her eggs in a warm, damp spot. Usually this means an open wound, although there have been cases in which botfly larvae had burrowed into the host's scalp.

When the eggs hatch, the larvae will tunnel down into the flesh of their host, causing irri-

tating lesions on the skin. Soon bacterial infection occurs and, if left untreated, can prove fatal.

If the bacterial infection is treated without knowing the source, the baby worm continues living snug in its subcutaneous shell. There is no vaccine against the living bug — the best thing to do is wear a lot of insecticide and kill any hungry-looking flies that approach.

Girls who scream at gnats may be practicing inherent survival instincts: Run from the bugs and you will live.

It's hard to catch the diseases I discussed above unless you're exposed to the carrier bugs for long periods of time — but that doesn't mean they can't be caught.

If you are going any place abroad for spring break, wear a lot of bug spray and do your best to keep clean, especially if you are going somewhere tropical. Wash your hands, use Purell and boil your water. Happy drinking!

Lisa Ely can be reached at lisa.ely@jhunewsletter.com.

Essential American designers and what to do with them

When I first arrived in this strange land of America, I noticed something interesting. The style of clothing was remarkably different from what I was used to back in Toronto. The tight-fitting, edgy looks were no longer present; instead, there was casual, relaxed clothing and those eternal khakis.

This was a whole new perspective for me, and it caught my eye and busied my mind for a while. The look was so simple and cool — It was 100 percent American.

So I decided to do some research and acquaint myself with the American way of fashion. I present you with a small list of contemporary stateside designers and their qualities.

Tim Hamilton

Born and raised in Iowa, Tim Hamilton has gained decent attention since launching his eponymous menswear line in 2006.

His clothing boasts a variety that has something for any taste. I personally enjoy his knack for experimentation, something you don't see very often.

His spring line carried a beautiful selection of double-breasted coats as well as slim-fitting cardigans, both essential items in the upcoming season. Hamilton projects an interesting "nerd-chic" image, in one example pairing a grey golf shirt with matching leggings (yes, you read that correctly) underneath a black cardigan and topped with a white bow tie.

His lineup represents something you'd find at a liberal-arts college in the '80s, yet at other moments Hamilton injects something that makes the look so modern, such as a red leather jacket or grey trench coat. Hamilton takes you for a ride through the ages

and brings you back to reality with simple pieces that are easy to wear and thought-provoking at the same time. Hamilton's rise has been gradual, but this designer will soon earn his wings and fly to the top.

Michael Bastian

When I first saw men wearing khaki pants with a navy blazer on campus, the combination was absolutely foreign to me (we go for black on black in Canada). As time went on, the khakis and navy duo attracted me and I began to familiarize myself with the concept of American sportswear. The idea is simple: make clothing casual and graceful.

In my search for a great American sportswear designer, I came upon Michael Bastian. His clothing represents everything and anything that classic American taste is supposed to be.

His spring 2008 lineup might as well be called Beach 2008, yet it's still everything a real American man (with taste) would wear. His suits are cut slim, with thin lapels and a single button, an originally haute couture European style. His dress shirts are also trimmed to accentuate the male body, a classical notion that seems to have been lost presently. A personal favorite piece of mine is a fine gauge linen hoodie with a plunging neckline, perfect for sunny weekends.

Bastian's use of color emphasizes white, gray and tan, yet he stops nothing short of a full spectrum. He also, to my high exultations, proves himself to be

a master of the art of layering, a technique that more college students need to learn. The sweatpants and hoodie combo isn't good enough any more. Men need to layer their clothing simply and playfully. A simple V-neck over a T-shirt or a cardigan over a dress shirt will quickly elevate your style factor and draw a few looks. Bastian's name will no doubt eventually become synonymous with American sportswear, like Ralph Lauren.

John Varvatos

Having worked at Polo Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein, Varvatos decided to start his own clothing line, his first runway show debuting in fall/winter 2000. Since then, Varvatos has been virtually unstoppable, attracting critical acclaim for his clothing and style and winning numerous awards from the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

He has won my compliments in the process as well.

His clothing emulates easy elegance and casual luxury. His style is a perfect midpoint between sophisticated streetwear and haute couture, a college student's dream label.

Varvatos doesn't boast cashmere suits, hyper-tailored shirts and ultra-skinny ties, like a certain Italian duo (think "sweet"). Instead, he combines his pieces and molds them into a pure classical style representing clean-cut America.

Flip through some of his runway photos and you'll see creative looks that are simple and

beautiful. A pair of rolled-up cotton gray pants matched with a white Henley and gray cardigan: a simple look but a lasting and eye-turning one nonetheless. Or perhaps you prefer a pair of black rolled-up jeans with a gray plaid dress shirt and a bluish-silver two-button blazer with the sleeves turned out. Both looks come from his spring 2008 line.

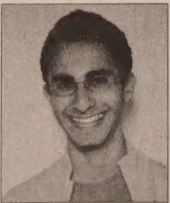
You won't likely find too much semi-formal attire like you would at Armani. Varvatos takes the best of two worlds and suits them to one another. Picture a single-button grey shawl-collared jacket worn over a striped long sleeve shirt and you might begin to see why Varvatos is so sought after. It's because people actually want to wear his clothing. And it's because he can relate to modern men and women and design what they want.

I look through his past clothing lines and think to myself, "the next time I go shopping, I'm going to look for that piece," or "wow, that would look great on me."

On the other hand, I look through Prada's fall 2008 lineup, which looks like some man clearly pissed off Miuccia Prada because the clothing borders transgender, and go "well it's interesting, but who would wear that?" (She was trying to display man's vulnerability, by the way). This again shows why Varvatos has climbed the fashion ladder and emerged out on top, the unchallenged winner.

I've had an epiphany. I try very hard to keep to my Canadian roots, but, as time goes on, the American way of clothing grabs my attention more and more. Dare I say that I've been assimilated? Well, maybe a little.

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EDITORIAL

The Brody era ends

There is much to say about William Brody's 12-year tenure as University president.

He has overseen an unprecedented period of expansion in Charles Village and East Baltimore, neither of which has been without controversy. He has catapulted Hopkins into the national spotlight in a way that no other recent Hopkins figure has, using a post in the upper echelons of academic leadership to insert himself, and Hopkins, into some of the most heated political debates in the country. He has testified before Congress on American competitiveness, preached to the National Press Club about health care and protested federal restrictions on the publication of so-called "sensitive but unclassified" research.

To be sure, Brody has etched for himself a place in Hopkins history as perhaps the most ambitious, high-profile and, at times, controversial University president.

His prolific fundraising prowess has helped catalyze a ballooning endowment, which has more than tripled since Brody's inauguration in 1996. That unprecedented financial growth has made capital projects like Charles Commons and the Decker Quad — projects that have made the University more appealing to applicants and alumni alike — possible.

But by Brody's own admission, there have been some low points as well.

His tenure saw the tragic deaths of two students at the hands of murderers. After a public outcry

and intense media scrutiny, his administration orchestrated a hyper-accelerated program to improve University security, rendering Homewood perhaps one of the safest college campuses in the country.

Still, he has been unable to shake the feeling by some that his administration was at times distant from the undergraduate experience, distracted by the business of external coalition-building and expansion here and abroad.

Whether or not the Brody administration could have done anything to prevent security lapses — and we are not necessarily saying that it could have — the feeling has persisted that the University, under his watch, has been aloof to the average concerns of students and their families.

We're not ready to say whether that's true, and only Hopkins historians will have the perspective necessary to accurately evaluate Brody's tenure here. But certainly this much can be said: Hopkins is a much different place now than it was 12 years ago.

Brody has laid the groundwork for future presidents to tackle new challenges — challenges that remained untouched by his administration, such as college affordability. His time here will be remembered with at least a modicum of controversy, but it will also be remembered as a time when Hopkins fundamentally transformed its identity, as measured by the world and itself. For that, at least, Brody will likely be remembered as perhaps the most influential president in University history.

Picking new priorities

The report that the University had decided to raise tuition once again, this time by 5 percent comes at an interesting time with President Brody's announcement of his retirement. It is the end of an important era at this university: a period of significant capital investment and growth. Now that this time is coming to an end, it is time for the University to decrease the burden of tuition on Hopkins students.

Under Brody's tenure, the University's endowment has grown from \$900 million to \$3 billion. This period of growth was important for Hopkins to reach its potential and match the infrastructural strength of its peer institutions.

For much of its history, Hopkins was a smaller school than those like Harvard. Thirty years ago, the student body was significantly smaller than it is today. As a result of our past, the University has not received as much alumni support as others.

Under Brody, there was a significant boost in developing University infrastructure. The University has focused on growing the school, investing in projects such as Charles Commons, the development in East Baltimore, the Gilman renovation, building the Decker Quad and investing in the hospital. This development was important for the growth of Hopkins.

Today, Hopkins is reaching the end of this era

of sprawling capital investment, with Brody's retirement and the approaching end of the Knowledge for the World Campaign, which has raised more than \$3 billion for the endowment.

Now it is time for the University to look toward what its direction will be for the future. The University has built a broader network of supporters, alumni and fundraising, now is the time to invest in its students.

The best way to do so is to focus on managing and growing the endowment and putting that growth towards decreasing tuition costs or at least capping tuition growth.

Not only does the University have a responsibility to its students to keep tuition affordable, but maintaining a modest tuition will benefit the University as a whole. Lower tuition will attract more students who would otherwise be discouraged from attending a such an expensive school. This will in turn garner more benefits for the school as students give back financially once they become alumni.

Now is the time. For a long period, Hopkins has been expanding and exponential rises in tuition have followed. In this new era, the University should make lowering the cost of tuition one of its highest priorities.

Hopkins ... engaged?

The University's recent maneuver to turn Fall Festival into a major political event is big news for Hopkins. The Homewood campus tends to have a politically inert culture and the Student Council planners of this "celebration," Dan Teran and Justin Waite, are trying to get Hopkins to have a major influence in one of the most energized electoral campaigns in generations.

This is a very ambitious goal, and for that reason those involved must tread carefully. They are now trying to get not only musical acts but presidential candidates to come to Hopkins — which is in a non-battleground state — late in September, the height of campaigns for the general election.

This page encourages such ambition. Hopkins should set lofty goals and be filled with students who are more engaged in the political process, but we would like to add a few cautionary comments.

In order to achieve Teran and Waite's goal, Hopkins will need to see a massive mobilization and cooperation among student groups, Student Council and the administration.

The proposal for Hopkins Engaged includes doing just that, but planning and execution are not the same. The execution of this proposal will include a massive commitment of energy, money and time from now until the end of September.

One of the major problems at Hopkins has been the tendency to create committees, which can end up being graveyards where plans go to die. It would be unfortunate for that to happen with this proposal.

The planners here need to learn from past mistakes. They've already started a steering committee, and that can be a good thing, but this project cannot be allowed to fall stagnant. We need to keep pushing this issue, get students and student groups mobilized, and remain committed from day one until the last day.

Also, it is important to remember that this project must remain inclusive to all student groups. Teran has reached out to the leaders of certain important student groups on campus to assist with Hopkins Engaged. This project should offer an open ticket to all student groups, especially some that are very active on campus, such as the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA) and the Hopkins Energy Action Team (HEAT), among others.

It is true that when too many voices are included, there is a threat of too much debate and not enough action, but if the leadership of these organizations can be brought together under effective and inclusive guidance, together they can see this project through.

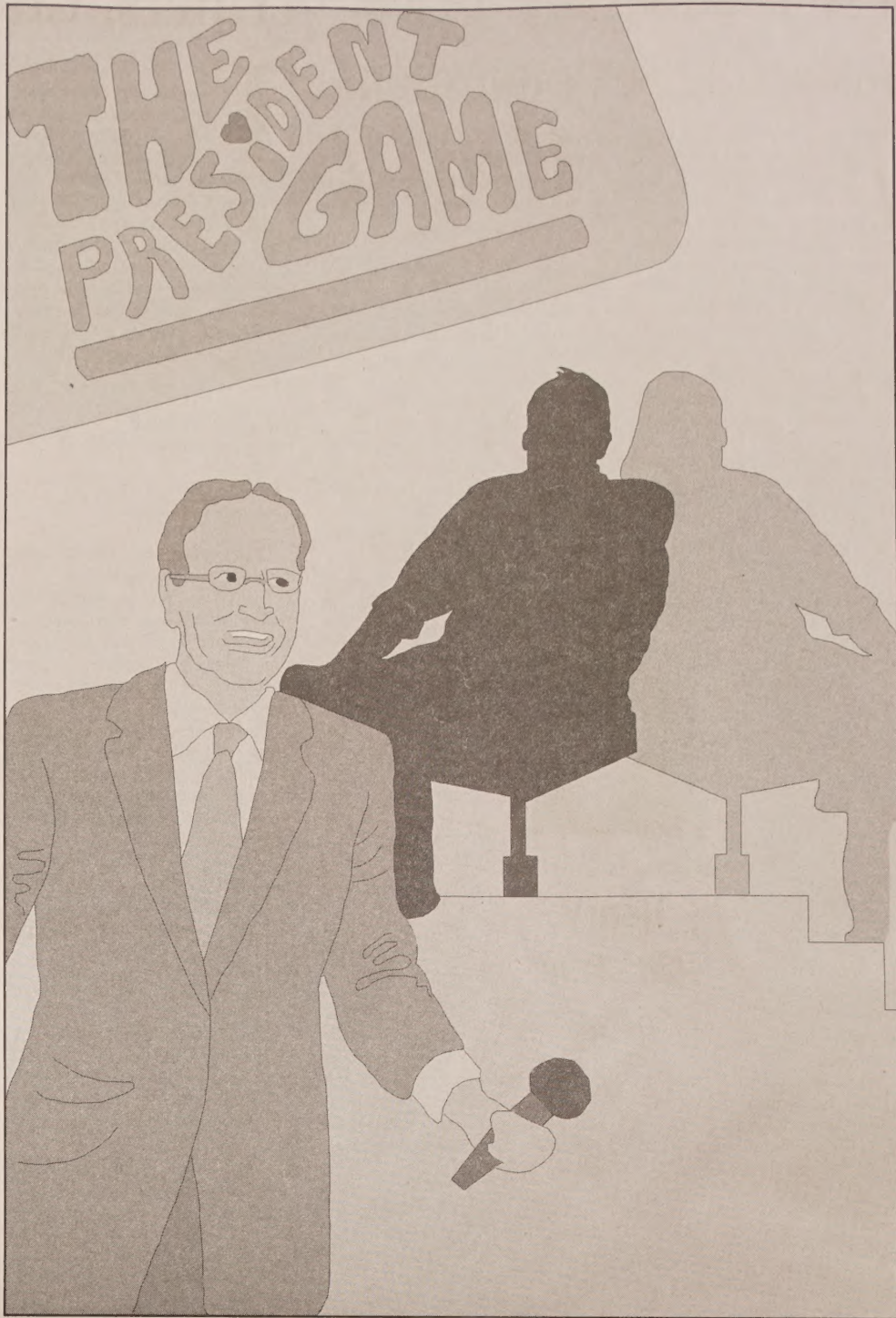
Moreover, bringing student groups into the process can mobilize members and reach out to the student body. After all, that is what this proposal is about: getting Hopkins engaged in the political process.

The real goal of this event should not be about getting the biggest names, but rather about mobilizing students in this key political year. For that reason, Hopkins Engaged must include as much of the Hopkins community as possible in this process.

vid's lack of softball questions, David remained collected and proceeded to press McConnell. David's professionalism and his forthrightness with one of the most important members of the president's cabinet should be commanded.

All too often politics is weighed down with partisan self-interest. That is why it is essential that external institutions, dedicated to the open and honest exchange of information, continually question our leaders. This role does not belong solely to the press and activist organizations, but to the University as well. The sponsors of this forum, the Foreign Affairs Symposium and Professor David fulfilled this very important function of the University.

Matt Hansen



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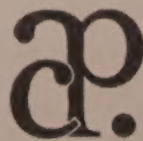
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Baltimore's potential is being stifled

By DYLAN DIGGS

After four years at Hopkins, I have a small observation I would like to address: Students here tend not to like Baltimore. As a western Marylander, I tend to be sympathetic. Baltimore is not what its benches call “the greatest city in America,” by any means. Also, as a Marylander, I have a tendency from time to time to look at Baltimore as something akin to a black hole that siphons off much our state’s money and then uses it irresponsibly. Many students at Hopkins are relatively new to Baltimore. They tend to be more accustomed to grander cities such as New York, Chicago, Seattle, San Diego, Boston, etc. So for that reason they often look at Baltimore with disdain. Now, as I’m finishing up my final months living in Baltimore, I think it might be worth considering for a moment some of the better aspects of this city that has hosted me for the past four years. Many friends of mine point out the glorious quirks of Baltimore as one of its high points. I’m not a very quirky person, but I’m also not much of a city person. One of Baltimore’s greatest aspects is that it has a certain small-town feel, despite its big-city problems. Baltimore does not make you claustrophobic. In that way, Baltimore is certainly charming and I’m starting to see that. One of my favorite aspects of Baltimore, and Maryland in general is that they are a clash of American subcultures. Maryland is certainly a Mid-Atlantic State, and therefore has an interesting mix of the north and south. Maryland has many elements of the cultural and industrial fervor that is so very northern, but retains a level of humility and charm that is not often as pronounced in the cultures of our northern brothers. The problem with Baltimore is that many of its problems are overshadowing its great potential. The high crime rate here is understandable, but not excusable. Baltimore is not alone in terms of violent crimes, as it is very much a part of a consistent triangle of violence in the east along with Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. However, the crime here is also inexcusable. It is the product of a deeply flawed education system that rewards bureaucrats instead of children. This is not to mention a police-politician infrastructure that seems unable or unwilling to break the culture of violence. Those are only a few of the key problems that afflict Baltimoreans who do not have the luxury of getting out of the city. Another major problem with Baltimore is in race relations. This is not unlike much of America, where race relations are pushed under the rug rather than actually dealt with. Much of America thought that New Orleans was filled with a bunch of happy jazz players before Hurricane Katrina exposed the harsh reality of that city. Thinking of this, I recall speaking to a man who works at the sports store down by the Inner Harbor. We were talking enthusiastically about the Baltimore Ravens, because it looked like it would be a promising year following the Ravens’ 13-3 performance the season before. The man got to reminiscing about when the Ravens came to Baltimore in 1996 from Cleveland. He told me how there quickly developed a certain camaraderie among individuals sporting their Ravens pride. He said this camaraderie was among blacks and whites and how whites would wave to blacks in the city now, something that he claimed many didn’t do before the Ravens. The man noticed that football brought the races together in a common cause in a way that Orioles baseball or Bullets basketball have been unable to accomplish. He looked at me and said he was disappointed that “it took them a football team to realize there was color in this city.” Baltimore has its problems — they are many and they are obvious. It has other problems that speak less loudly. But this city also has great potential. That’s why it saddens me that with every passing year the only changes seem to be negative. If 1980s New York could be turned into the city it is now, so can Baltimore, maybe not in the same way, but in a distinct, Baltimorean way. What the city needs is action. It needs to happen from the bottom up, with individuals who desire significant change, ministers calling for a new civil rights movement and the valiant efforts of small businesses. And action is needed from the top-down, from politicians driven to change the status quo. Only then can Baltimore reach its full potential.

Dylan Diggs is a senior political science major from Mount Airy, Md. He is the News-Letter Opinions Editor.

OPINIONS

The threats working together to encircle Israel

By DAN MENAGED

This week’s terrorist attack in Jerusalem is the latest in a line of indicators that Israel could soon face another major war. Its numerous Arab enemies have been cooperating increasingly, creating the potential for a multi-front war not seen since 1973. This time though, instead of formal armies and a conventional war, Israel faces the threat of a proxy war fought on behalf of Iran and Syria by terrorist organizations based on their borders and in their midst. The shooting at an Israeli school hinted at this future for several reasons. The terrorist was an Israeli-Arab who supposedly acted in support of Hamas, though not with any collaboration. Few attackers have come from among Israel’s Muslim population and this could be a new and potent threat. Israeli-Arabs carry the rights of all citizens of Israel. This grants them greater latitude to commit terrorist acts as they are free to travel abroad and have access to the interior of Israel. This attack was quickly lauded by the terrorist groups that are usually responsible for these acts. The Jerusalem home of the terrorist attacker proudly flew the flags of Hamas and Hezbollah following the attack. The fact that both flags were flown is telling, as Palestinian defense sources have confirmed to the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, that the terrorist collaborated with Hamas members in the West Bank who channeled orders from Hamas operatives in Damascus. The planning of the attack was also in collaboration with Hezbollah.

This coalescence of the various terror groups fighting Israel is further evident in the shift in Hamas’s tactics and weaponry. This week, a roadside bomb killed two Israeli soldiers patrolling the security fence with Gaza, mimicking both the tactic and mechanism used widely by Hezbollah in its war with Israel two summers ago. Hamas’s weaponry has mirrored that of Hezbollah with the addition of Katyusha rockets, the same missiles used by Hezbollah. The similarities found between these groups can be traced directly to Iran and its closest ally, Syria. Iran has supplied missiles and training to both groups over the past several years, increasing the danger each poses to Israel. As Hamas, Hezbollah and now potentially Israeli-Arabs are uniting against Israel with the assistance of these states, Israel has attempted to negotiate with

the leader of Fatah and the West Bank, Mahmoud Abbas. There is reason to believe, though, that this relatively moderate force has little actual power, and his leadership could collapse as it did in the Gaza Strip. A recent report found that Abbas knew days ahead of time about Hamas’s plan to take over, but was still unable to prevent it. There is little reason to believe Abbas would be able to resist a similar coup in the West Bank. A Hamas takeover of the West Bank would extend the threat to Israel’s security and be the final pillar necessary for a proxy war between Iran, Syria and Israel. Hamas could attack from the west in Gaza and the east in the West Bank, while Hezbollah would strike from the north. The increasingly sophisticated weaponry of these groups could pose a formidable problem to the Israeli Defense Forces. The

addition of internal attacks from Israeli-Arabs coordinated with these groups could pit the Israelis against their greatest challenge since 1973. This is assuming the war stays at the level of proxy forces, which is unlikely. Israeli intelligence reports have noted a large military buildup by the Syrians. They still bitterly resent the Israeli annexation of the militarily important Golan Heights territory during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Tensions have risen over the past several years as Syrian President Bashir Assad has demanded Israel return this land or risk war. Israel must begin to deal with these threats one at a time, to forestall this potential all-out war. Each of Israel’s options will be unpopular in the international community, but their security must be valued over their reputation. First, they should make frequent incursions into the Gaza Strip to gradually weaken Hamas’s capability, countering Iran’s and Syria’s efforts. Second, Israel must help Fatah reduce the risk of a takeover by Hamas in the West Bank. Fatah could detain individuals or secretly turn them over to Israeli forces. Fatah may be willing to cooperate with the Israelis because it’s in their own best interest to suppress Hamas. The incipient threat from Israeli-Arabs can only be stemmed by the already pervasive Israeli intelligence services. An increase in resources could stop this trend towards terror before it gains momentum. Currently, Hezbollah is largely out of Israel’s control, due to UNIFIL troops stationed in Lebanon. The root of these problems, Iran and Syria, also lie outside their influence. Still, if Israel deals with each of the other threats, they will be able to prevent the threat of another Yom Kippur War.



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

Dan Menaged is a senior political science major from Philadelphia, Pa. He studied abroad in Israel last spring semester.

Colin Ray

Who is the real Client No. 9?

In 1621, my ancestors (the Raes) arrived with the second batch of pilgrims and set foot on the miserable ground that is now Massachusetts, and still miserable ground. They brought with them and helped instill a spirit that is still alive in America: the Puritan spirit. Loosely defined by Baltimore’s own H.L. Mencken, Puritans live in the constant fear that someone, somewhere is having a good time. And so it is with today’s media, including the *New York Times*, who relish and continues their descent into tabloid status this week by reporting that now former New York governor Eliot Spitzer was caught on a wiretap setting up an appointment with a prostitute in Washington D.C. Spitzer boldly characterized his personal sexual life as “private,” but it is safe to say that his life is going to be quite public for the next few weeks. The pilgrims, being the first white people here, defined the culture with their drab clothing and lousy beer (passed on to us as Sam Adams), both designed to

Colin Ray is a junior English major from Chardon, Ohio.

be too gross to keep people from getting drunk enough to have judgment lapses. As a result of the Pilgrims, the Puritan Spirit lives on, and American media and print outlets love nothing more than to bring down a public servant who has committed a foolish indiscretion in his private life and turn it into a monstrous cluster of their own. Thanks partly to a reasonable concern about human trafficking and partly to Puritan dislike for people having sex for pleasure, prostitution is illegal in our country except in Nevada. However, like other laws that repress an unstoppable market demand, the prostitution law obviously fails a lot of the time. But I make the following argument: with a small increase in oversight from the *New York Morality Times* and other such purveyors of all that is Fair and Balanced, prostitution could become legal and transgressors in the public eye could still be held accountable for their actions. The fact is simply that we are better at judging people on moral grounds than legal grounds. The legal system has been rocked in recent years by a number of miscarriages of justice. Ray Lewis (“allegedly”) killed

two men and then won a Superbowl ring. O.J. Simpson seems to be unable to avoid getting in tax trouble (which the legal system is good at enforcing) but somehow avoided doing jail time for (“allegedly”) killing his girlfriend. And these lapses do not just extend to getting people off the hook who should instead be strung up by it. I’m sure you are familiar with the Duke lacrosse case: It is probable that no crime was committed, and yet the accused endured a punishment that was probably as bad as jail time. The moral system that we have in this country, in contrast, has curbed unscrupulous individual behaviors and ambitions. For example, the advancement of many politicians has been ruined by their personal indiscretions such as cheating on their second wife when she had cancer while yelling about America into a bullhorn and standing on rubble. Other cheaters, such as Newt Gingrich and our 42nd president have also had their careers derailed by personal mistakes. Even Kobe Bryant, while not a politician, will never be able to escape from the mistakes he made in Colorado. The ironic overlap is obvious too: Gary Condit end-

ed up leaving Congress due to the moral outrage from his many affairs, and yet the murder of Chandra Levy is still unsolved. Not that I am assigning guilt or anything. It is still too soon to know how the whole Spitzer ordeal will turn out, but one thing is certain: It will be well covered. (A March 12, 2008 *New York Moral Times* article credited 17 different reporters with contributions.) In general the track record for people at the center of well-covered affairs is not good. The real point, though, is this: The news outlets are the real prostitutes, and we are client #9. We pay them to be titillated by reports about the moral indiscretions of others, and like Spitzer, we frequently return for more. Otherwise, we wouldn’t get reports about the price and looks of the service provider Spitzer allegedly met with. (She weighs 105 pounds, and is a brunette.) The Puritan spirit is yet alive and well, and has ended yet another political career. True to form, it’s been reported that Spitzer will probably not face legal charges for the acts themselves, but for the method of payment. And it will go down as just another chapter in the vast records of the Moral Court of the Puritan Spirit.

Michael Berman

A Prelude to a Fall, part two: jolted back to sanity

When I left off in this series — intended to explore the nuances of our academic and social culture here at Hopkins — it was at the conclusion of the first part of what I had anticipated would be a two part column about my experience in waiting for my LSAT score. I had wanted to present the columns in back-to-back weeks. That didn’t quite happen; let’s just say that I had to take a little break from writing. Well, break time’s over. However, since that was so long ago and it is likely no one remembers much of the original column, I think it might be prudent to rehash it a bit. In essence, I sought to show that because I was so transfixed upon getting back the results of the test, as the date approached, it created such a distraction for me that it trivialized every other aspect of my life. If you want to read it in full, feel free to check it out on the *News-Letter* Web site in the Oct. 25, 2007 issue under the title “Procrastination with Dignity” — though I would ask that you examine it with its original title “A Prelude to a Fall, part one: sidelined by numbers.”

Regardless, I ended the column by stating my intention of writing the follow-up column about my reaction to receiving the score, to pen the raw, unfiltered emotions that it was sure to evoke. Though some time has passed and my raw emotions have run their course, perhaps there still exists some hope of fulfilling my original objective. Now for part two... What becomes of us when our worst fears in life are not realized, but rather turn out to be more favorable than our present reality? How do we move forward when our worthy efforts are met with cataclysmic failure? And, what are we to do when our rhetoric is reduced to such petty melodrama that it only seems appropriate when read as a monologue in a Spanish language soap opera? But seriously though: when life hands you a lemon, how the hell do you make lemonade? Well, I don’t know. But I do know that life just handed me a whole sack full of lemons, so I better figure out the recipe, or else I’m about to be stuck with naught but the fruits of bitterness upon my plate. They sent the e-mail with the scores three days early; maybe they did it to take us by surprise, maybe to make the

anticipation in the final hours a bit easier, maybe it was because they finished grading the damn thing early. Really, I don’t know why. What I do know is that when I got the e-mail, I thought it was just another procedural correspondence regarding the upcoming release of the scores. Dear Mike: it wasn’t. I opened the thing not suspecting anything, and proceeded to stare with disbelief for about a minute as I slowly came to realize what I was looking at. All the while those three numbers were staring back at me like three heart piercing daggers. Those three numbers all added up to: you suck (or so it appeared to me). Surprise, shock, anguish — all these were part of the mixed cadre of emotions that washed over me as I looked upon a score that was lower than any of the “worst case scenarios” which I had concocted in my head during the interminable three weeks of waiting. But then something amazing and totally unexpected happened: I suddenly felt OK. How could it be this? I shouldn’t be getting back up from this. We’re talking about me here, the guy who was so lost in anticipation that it made his

whole life seem as pointless as a *Beverly Hills Cop* marathon (see part one), the schmuck who chose to wager his identity on one number. I spun the wheel, and I lost. Game over, right? Apparently not. I really can’t explain why this happened. I think when I fell, I hit my head hard enough to realize that maybe I was letting things get a little out of control. On this campus, we are focused way too much on these numbers. They consume us to a degree that just isn’t called for. Obviously, I’m guilty of it myself. But in looking back, I’m forced to ask, “Where does one draw the line?” When we choose to sacrifice the present for some vision of an idyllic future, at what point does the opportunity cost dictate that we should just enjoy our lives and quit worrying so damn much about our test scores? Well, I’ll be so bold as to suggest that at Hopkins we might just be misjudging the position of that line. And as we do it, some of us are really just setting ourselves up for a big fall.

Michael Berman is a senior International Studies major from New Providence, N.J.

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THE B SECTION

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MARCH 13, 2008

It's short, squat, and blank.
Welcome to the new breed of toy.

By VANESSA
VERDINE
News-Letter Staff Writer

There was one that was a garish, acidic purple, with too many green bloodshot eyes rolling in every which direction. A foot to his right were two six-inch tall sheep, round and fleecy and as benign as their neighbor was creepy. Behind them was a series of five little figurines, each four inches tall, respectively representing the five different elements in a near-traditional Japanese style, save the fact the medium was a white vinyl plastic figurine.

Such were the small vinyl visitors to atomic POP in Hampden on Friday, March 7. That evening, the alternative toy/book/gadget/magazine store hosted the Vinylmore art show, the first to occur in the area. The event was created by Benn Ray, owner of Atomic Books and atomic POP, two shops catering to the eclectic, artistic and fun in taste, or, as Ray puts it, "Baltimore's first and best source for weird stuff other bookstores won't carry." The stores, which have been in operation since 1991 and have made a fan of John Waters ("a friend and regular customer," according to Ray, adding that Waters has his fanmail delivered to the store), is a hub of the characteristic funky, artistic folk who frequent Hampden.

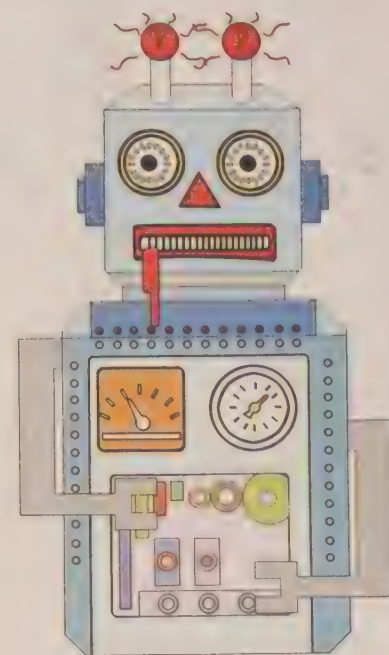
This is the second art show atomic POP has hosted; however, it frequently hosts writers, musicians and other performers in conjunction with Atomic Books. The prompt, to "take a blank vinyl figure and translate your art using it," as Ray said, was chosen ad hoc by the store owner himself. He says he found his contributors in his own store, regulars who have enjoyed the creative atmosphere at the two Atomic stores. In particular, Ray said, "I specifically went after local artists who were friends or who I was a fan of."

This involved photographers, sculptors, tattooists, graffiti artists, comic illustrators, graphic designers, interior painters, fine artists, black velvet painters, etc. But then, I also invited some toy customizers who were regulars at atomic POP to participate too."

The result of such diversity of talent and medium, from body ink to interior design, was a unique, sundry show, tied together in its creative havoc by the medium which dictated the artists' only restraint: MUNNY. MUNNY is best described as a soft, solid-colored (either white, pink, black, blue or glow-in-the-dark) vinyl toy with moveable joints and a round head, simian mouth protrusion and half-moon ears, with short trunk legs and vaguely shaped hands lacking distinction between the four fingers. Really what MUNNY looks like is an alien anime claymation figure, frozen and waiting for action.

It (or "he," as the Web site calls him) is cute and bizarre at the same time, but what is most extraordinary about it is the fact that it is a canvas for nearly any form of artistic manipulation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



Killer robots in the name of ... science?

By MARIE CUSHING
News & Features Editor

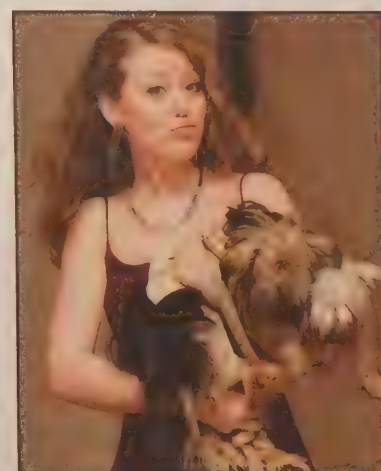
When it comes to the war on terror, Talon has been there from the beginning — helping in search-and-rescue efforts at Ground Zero, hunting for Osama bin Laden in the caves of Afghanistan and charging into Iraq since 2003.

But Talon isn't your average soldier. It's a robot. And it's started carrying a machine gun.

Gun-wielding robots on the loose — sounds like the plot of the latest blockbuster science fiction movie. But the military is already using thousands of robots in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Pentagon reportedly plans to spend \$2 billion on robots in the next five years.

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INSIDE B SECTION



CALENDAR

• Take a stage dive as the **Black Lips** take over D.C., **B2**.

SCIENCE

• Can't seem to tear yourself away from the **computer**? Now you can watch TV on it, **B7**.

YOUR N-L

• Missed your chance at puppy love? See the recap of the first **Doggie Date Auction**, **B8**.

CARTOONS

• Our humor columnist attempts to unravel the mysteries of the **feline** mind, **B8**.

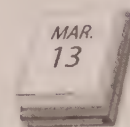
SPORTS

• Men's lacrosse suffers its first **defeat**, **B12**.

ALL PHOTOS BY LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR



CALENDAR MARCH 13 - MARCH 26



Black Lips set to wreak havoc in D.C.

Rock's not dead and Atlanta band the Black Lips is out to prove it.

The group is bringing their feedback and riff-heavy punk rock to the Black Cat Club in D.C. For only \$13 you can experience the stage diving, sweat dripping and general debauchery that has made the Southern punk band legends of the live show and the bane of existence for hundreds of club owners across the United States.

The Black Lips were formed in 2000 while the members were still teenagers. They released their first two albums on their own label and survived on a hefty diet of live shows. The band operated on a destructive notion of rock and roll even from the first days, and their shows got them banned by numerous Georgia clubs.

Fortunately, their dangerous habits also got them attention from Bomp Records, an independent label that financed their 2004 album, *We Did Not Know the Forest Spirit Made the Flowers Grow*. They also had the opportunity to play the important South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas. Their presence at this renowned festival has become a yearly staple, as they are known for playing an average of a dozen shows during the three-day festival. This practice has earned them the title "the hardest working band at SXSW" by the *New York Times*.

With such a steady diet of touring, it should hardly be a surprise that the band puts on such a raucous show. They have certainly learned how to do it right, perfecting that level of musical talent and stage presence that lets them play with high-energy prowess while



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The talented Black Lips put on an energetic live show and can spit in the air and catch it in their mouth while playing guitar.

pretending that they are seemingly too inebriated to do so.

Their self-destructive craftsmanship was captured on their live CD *Los Valientes del Mundo Nuevo*, which featured an epic live show in Tijuana. The CD showcases the punk ethic that has made the band a sensation, and you can practically hear their reckless abandon on stage in the renowned LP.

The band's sound adds to their image. Although they call their music "Flower Punk," they could be thought of as a blend between the Clash and the Stooges, with a few songs that resemble the slowed down jams of the Grateful Dead. They have listed a mishmash of influences, citing everything from Southern hip-hop to

the Ramones, and they also resemble the Violent Femmes, another band that could play folk and blues with the best of them and still bust out a face-melting riff after a few drinks.

Though their history and tendency for wild raucousness and irresponsibility seems as though it'd appeal only to the niche of "punk-rock puritans," their newest album, *Good Bad Not Evil*, has lent to more widespread appeal.

This may be because their sound has developed into something that sounds blissfully anachronistic, rather than cheap revival-esque playing an old card. The album, released this year, shows the Black Lips turning it down just a notch,

without nearing the description of tame.

It is hard not to get overly excited about a band like the Black Lips. They seem to be a living embodiment of the rock and roll image most bands spend their days cultivating. And the best part is that they do it without the arrogance or the self-conscious press manipulation that marks a lot of independent bands that seem so promising.

Instead they let their music and their shows speak for themselves. They are a work-hard, play-hard type of band, and lucky for us we get to see them do it at the same time.

— Aidan Renaghan

MOVIE OPENINGS

Funny Games

Opening at the Charles Theatre
Friday, March 14

(410) 727-FILM or <http://www.thecharles.com> for showtimes



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM](http://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM)

Michael Haneke's remake of his 1997 film stars Naomi Watts, Tim Roth and Michael Pitt in the story of a family that is tortured and threatened with death by two visitors to their vacation home.

resident DJs, including Ultra Nate and Lisa Moody, spin until the sun comes up on Saturday morning. Club 1722 is located appropriately at 1722 N. Charles St.

8 p.m. Marx in Soho

Actor Fenton Wilkinson brings Marx back to life in *Marx in Soho*, Howard Zinn's one-person play about the oft-maligned man and his thought, the misreadings of which have given way too many undergraduates the flawed logic that not working while living off a trust fund is a form of not kowtowing to capitalist hegemony. A critic's pick on *CityPaper.com*, this play takes place at the Creative Alliance at the Patterson, located at 3134 Eastern Ave. Tickets are \$15.

Saturday, March 15

2 p.m. G.K. Gyatso's Introduction to Buddhism, American Edition
Vikadamshtri Buddhist Center's Resident Teacher Kelsang Chogden will discuss the recently published American edition of *Introduction to Buddhism* by the Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso, founder and Spiritual Director of Buddhism's New Kadampa Tradition. Ideal for anyone developing an interest in Buddhism, this book explains such concepts as who is Buddha, how to meditate, past and future lives and the path to enlightenment in a way that is easy to understand. The event is free, and will be held at the Barnes & Noble near Power Plant Live, at 601 E. Pratt St.

7 p.m. Loyola College's Relay for Life

The 12-hour walk-athon's proceeds will go toward cancer research and prevention education. Food, live music and games will also be provided. E-mail Marie DeSage at medesage@loyola.edu for more information. Loyola is located up the road at 4501 N. Charles St.

8 p.m. Skatepark of Baltimore's Three-Year Anniversary

Keeping kids off the brick walkways of Baltimore's Inner Harbor (and out of the range of hostile beat cops), Skatepark of Baltimore celebrates its third year with pie, rock and roll and skateable art. Hear live music from Jack Starr, Avec, Vagus and Throwdown Syndicate at this Dangerously Delicious-sponsored, Load of Fun-hosted show. Admission is \$10, and the skatepark is located at 120 W. North Ave.

Sunday, March 16

6 a.m. - 2 a.m. Quigley's St. Patrick's Day Street Party

Quigley's serves penny pints of Guinness from 6-8 a.m., which is just about the best thing to ever happen. Ever. Plus, we haven't en-

countered too many places advertising green beer for St. Patrick's Day, but Quigley's offers two for just \$3.17 both Sunday and Monday. With \$4 car bombs and lots of cheap food, this Half-Irish pub is all-Irish for St. Patrick's Day. Quigley's Half-Irish Pub is located at 633 Portland St.

2 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Parade

For more than 50 years, thousands of spectators from the region have crowded the streets and sidewalks of downtown Baltimore and the famous Inner Harbor to watch thousands more march and celebrate Irish culture, music, song and dance. The parade goes from the Washington Monument south on Charles Street and east on Pratt to President Street. Visit <http://www.irish-parade.net> for more information.

Monday, March 17

5 p.m. Rockstar's Taste of Chaos

Often called the "winter Warped Tour," Taste of Chaos features bands such as Avenged Sevenfold, Bullet for my Valentine and Idiot Pilot. And it's sponsored by Rockstar Energy drinks so it shouldn't be difficult to get your hands on tons of caffeine. The show takes place at the Patriot Center of George Mason University, located at 4400 University Drive in Fairfax, Va. Call (703) 993-3000 for ticketing information.

Tuesday, March 18

7 p.m. Five Bands for \$5

The 8x10 makes Tuesday nights worthwhile with their Five Bands for \$5 event. The 8x10 Club is located at 10 E. Cross St.

Wednesday, March 19

6 p.m. Yellowcard at Towson

Yellowcard will be played at the Recher Theater, located at 512 York Rd., with three other bands: the Spill Canvas, Secondhand Serenade and PlayRadioPlay! Call (410) 337-7178 for more information.

7 p.m. Chevelle and Finger Eleven

Inspired by the lurching riffs of Helmet and the soft/loud vocal styling of Tool, Chicago-based trio Chevelle's aggressive, heavy sound is all about mounting tension exploding into raw guitar bursts. Finger Eleven's latest album, *Them vs. You vs. Me* features much more varied instrumentation and influences than previous albums — including dance, funk and country — than just the chugging metallic guitars of their past efforts. Tickets to the show at Ram's Head Live! are \$25. Visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more information. Ram's Head Live! is located downtown at 20 Market Place.

Campus events

Saturday, March 15

12 p.m. Hopkins Men's Lacrosse vs. Syracuse

Head to Homewood Field at noon if you're going to be around this spring break.

Sunday, March 16

5:30 p.m. Pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard Live at Shriver Hall
Internationally acclaimed French pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard makes his Baltimore recital debut performing works by Bach, Schoenberg and Beethoven.

Local events

Thursday, March 13

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. City Paper Spring Job Fair

Many job opportunities will be available from local businesses for the upcoming season. The fair will be held at the Belvedere Hotel, located at 1 E. Chase St.

6:30 p.m. Murder Ink

Peabody Institute senior Gordon Green presents yet another rendition of the *City Paper* column, though this time it is a musical composition of clarinets and spoken word. The score calls for three clarinets and a spoken text

gleaned directly from *City Paper's* weekly column tallying up the city's homicides (Green assures that potential identifying details of the victims have been scrambled). Admittance to the Peabody Institute, at 1 E. Mount Vernon Place, is free.

9 p.m. Hitchcock Revival: The Paradine Case

Alfred Hitchcock's 1947 British courtroom drama features Gregory Peck as the defense counsel or arguing the case for the titular Mrs. Paradine (smoldering Italian beauty Alida Valli), who stands accused of murdering her husband. *The Paradine Case* will be playing at the Charles Theatre (1711 N. Charles St.) as a part of their ongoing revival series.

Friday, March 14

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Nashville Star Open Call

NBC's smash-hit music competition show *Nashville Star* will be conducting its second of four national open calls in Washington, D.C. on March 14 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Westin Grand, located on 2350 M Street N.W. The following two open calls will be conducted in Austin, Texas and Nashville, Tenn. The D.C. open call is the best opportunity for Maryland. For more information, visit <http://www.nashvillestar.com>.

Late-Night Sugar at Club 1722

After all the other bars have closed, 1722 is just getting the party started. Every Friday night

Exposure

By Shiv Gandhi



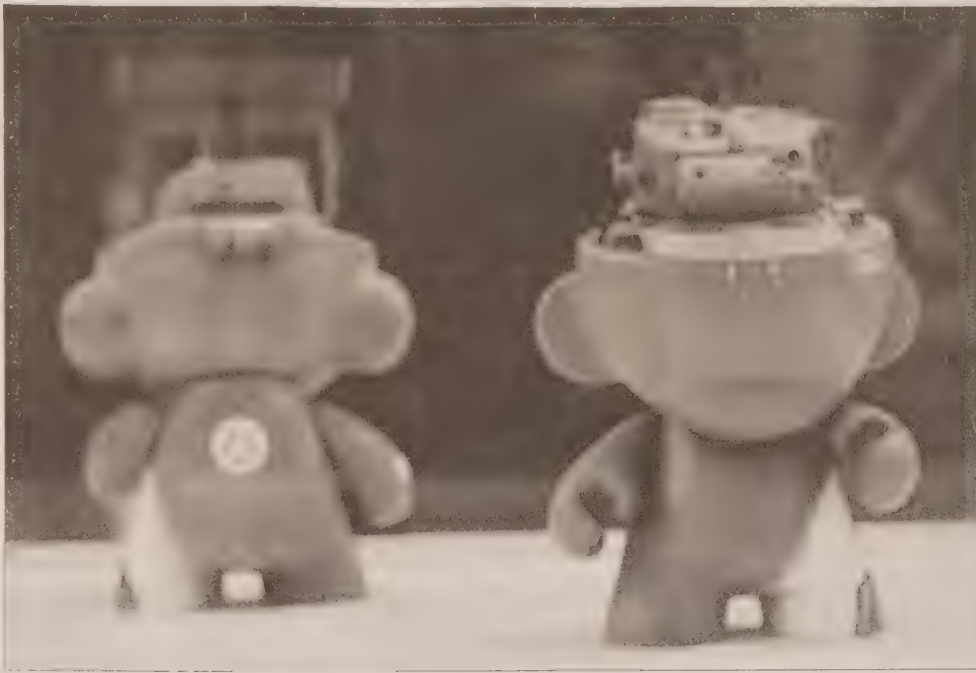
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Atomic Pop hosts first Vinylmore show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1
“MUNNY is here so you can do amazing things and see how great you really are,” chirps MUNNY’s Web page, a branch of the American company Kidrobot. According to the site’s suggestion, “You can draw and paint on MUNNY, use crayons, pencils, ketchup or anything else you can think of ... snuggle him, pierce him, drape him, cherish him. MUNNY is open to pretty much anything.”

While none of the artists resorted to ketchup to express themselves, a huge array of interpretations came out of this one blank toy. Arranged in the back of the tiny one-room shop, before the back room where Ray himself served free drinks at the bar, tables displayed what must have been at least a hundred takes on that MUNNY could offer himself up to for the talented artist. Some were whimsical and colorful; others black and white; some cute, some creepy; MUNNY also became political, purely aesthetic, accessorized, mutilated, furry, anime-style, Americana-cartoon-style, caricature and on and on, perched on their own or in front of a backdrop on the clean white tables with cards bearing the name of the artist and the piece and the asking price (all pieces were on sale, most in the mid-to-high one-hundreds).

At 8:15 in the evening, the gallery space was relatively empty. However, by 8:30, as more spectators joined, the store became jam-packed, making it difficult to maneuver through the artists, students, families with small children and older people that had pushed into the impossibly small gallery space to look at the creatures the local talents had dreamed up. Everyone was engaged in conversation; a contributing artist carried his little daughter around to see the pieces, two artists discussed screen-printing techniques. It was chaos, yes, but a friendly chaos, one full of enthusiasm and appre-



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Vinylmore Art Show, at Atomic Pop in Hampden, showcases MUNNY dolls, which address different social and political issues.

ciation for the project that fostered responses from attendees such as, “I like that, that’s like a diorama from *Godzilla* or something.”

Stephen John Phillips, one of the contributing artists, spoke emphatically about the fun of the task. “Benn asked me to see what I could do,” he said, and so he set out on a week-long process to create his piece entitled “Dead Clown.” It is as eerie as it sounds: a 2D clown’s head photograph on a board stuck on the decapitated, frilly-collared neck of a MUNNY figurine, body painted to look like a polka-dotted clown suit with blue mitts. Phillips, who is a photography instructor at the Art Institute of Pennsylvania, a commercial photographer, and acclaimed graphic novelist, explained that he had tried to use a process called liquid photographic emulsion to transfer the photo onto MUNNY’s actual head, but, “there must have

been something on it,” he said, shaking his head. “Because it just wouldn’t stick. So I cut his head off and did this instead.”

Another artist, Michael Bracco, was pointed out explicitly, “You have to go talk to those two guys there, they’re really good.” Indicated was a man in his late 20s with hipster glasses and a tweed blazer talking to another artist. Bracco, a graphic novelist whose first novel came out March 8, said that he was prompted to try the challenge by Ray as well. “I’m in the process of putting out my first graphic novel, so I was spending a lot of time in the store,” he said, and so Ray approached him with the proposal. Bracco, who found part of the challenge to be venturing from his usual 2D media to paint and sharpie, submitted two figurines: Aquan, based off the character who will be published soon; and a piece entitled “No Swimming After Five.” Aquan was four inches tall, a green, angrily pouting creature; “No Swimming” features a gruesome cartoon pig cheerfully smiling, seemingly unaware of

the chunks of flesh Sharpied to look torn from his body to reveal his skeletal smile and frame. Both had been formed from the same blank MUNNY doll.

From the swarms of enthusiastic visitors to the enlightened art chatter, atomic POP was the perfect venue for the Vinylmore Art Show. While some found the creepier creations hard to stomach, others effused about how cool they were and quizzed the artists about how they had come up with their works, would they do it again, etc. The overwhelmingly positive response, not to mention the commercial perks for the artists having their pieces for sale and the store hosting the event, suggests that the Vinylmore show is something that could happen again in the future. And who knows? Maybe Ray will come up with something even crazier for the next round.

The Vinylmore Art Show is on display at Atomic POP, located at 3620 Falls Road in Hampden, until Monday, March 31.

JHUT Play Festival impresses with original students’ work

By JOHN KERNAN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

There is a certain stigma associated with student theater. Undergraduate theater is too experimental, they say, too abstract and inaccessible. At worst, it’s poorly written, awkwardly acted and pretentious.

Sure, JHU Theater’s New Play Festival was experimental in many ways, often very abstract and, OK, a little pretentious at times. However, the writing was creative and clear and the acting, convincing. JHUT succeeded where other experimental student theater fails: It kept the audience entertained and engaged.

First up for the night was “Freaky Observers,” written by senior Sal Gentile and directed by senior Jackie Jennings. The play revolved around the concept of Boltzmann brains, an abstract philosophical concept that argues that the conditions required to create billions of conscious minds (the human race) are much less likely to occur than those that would make one randomly. That is, order would arise in our highly entropic universe once in an epoch, enough to form a self-aware, free-floating “brain.” This brain could have memories, emotions, etc., all formed randomly.

The explanation given in the play was similar, if a bit more interestingly presented, but it might have left some of the less abstraction-minded grasping. The play focused on the meeting of two of these minds and the obvious confusion that arose. “Where am I?” asks the first, played by junior Mike Wills. “Nowhere,” replies the second (junior Raphael Krut-Landau), and he is being absolutely truthful. Their reality is an illusion, and the second brain helps the first come to terms with their ethereal, transient existence.

The play certainly elicited some head-scratching, but for those even vaguely familiar with problems of consciousness, it

presented a classic problem in a novel way. Instead of focusing on the problem of these brains’ very existence, we saw it from the perspective of those who would view it as an even greater problem: the brains themselves.

Next up was “Explode!” written by Jackie Jennings and directed by Sal Gentile. This play focused on the strained relationship between Miriam (senior Sam Engel) and Dave (sophomore Kempton Baldridge), who live directly underneath a volcano. Miriam is suffering greatly under the strain is paranoid about the volcano, and is unable to sleep. The couple argues back and forth, exactly mimicking the absurdity of the arguments of real-life long-term couples. While it did not have a terribly complicated plot, the play was layered enough to maintain interest.

Third on the playbill was “The Long Exposure.” While a certain degree of abstraction and symbolism is expected in these plays, this one, written by sophomore Chris Chuang and directed by Chuang and Mike Wills, pushed the limits. The story focused on Charlie’s (sophomore Eric Kalman Levitz) quest to understand his father. Both Charlie and his father are alcoholics, a fact which ends up dominating their lives. Charlie’s sister, Julie, played by junior Esther Bell, tries to help her brother but eventually turns him away at her doorstep. There is a cutscene involving artistic photographer Dawn (junior Brittany Matava), who is experimenting with long exposures and LEDs. Charlie happens upon her, and eventually he is allowed to try an exposure.

Unfortunately, the meaning here was unclear. Between this cutscene and the previous scene, the audience, confused, clapped as if the play were ending, as there was no clear cue as to the direction of the play. While well-acted and clearly rich with imagery, the story couldn’t truly be resolved by the end.

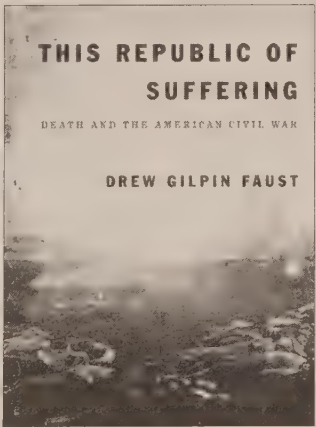
“Individual Ownership,” written by Jackie Jennings, was the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

Book Review

Drew Gilpin Faust
The Republic of Suffering
Knopf
Jan. 8, 2008
368 pages

By PETER SICHER
For The News-Letter



Six-hundred and twenty-thousand Americans died in the Civil War. That is more than the American death toll in all other wars between the Revolutionary War and the Korean War. Based on the percentage of our population, if the war was fought today, there would be 6 million deaths, certainly an irreparable loss to the nation. In her new book, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*, Harvard President and Lincoln Professor of History Drew Gilpin Faust writes about these tragic losses of life.

The book is divided into eight chapters, each one dealing with a different aspect of death in the war: Dying, Killing, Burying, Naming, Realizing, Believing and Doubting, Accounting, and Numbering. Each chapter contains a unique perspective on death, each one taking into account the political, emotional and mental consequences of loss. The most interesting chapter is perhaps the most brutal: “Killing.”

As the chapter’s title suggests, “Killing” deals with the literal act of killing fellow Americans in the course of battle. Even though the majority of the war’s casualties were unrelated to combat, hundreds of thousands were killed or killed others on battlefields across the United States. One section of note deals with the experience of African-American soldiers fighting for the United States. Faust writes of

atrocities (such as the massacre of surrendering black troops at Fort Pillow) perpetrated by rebels against the buffalo soldiers and of the acts of revenge by African-Americans, motivated by the shame and anger from slavery. According to Faust, many saw fighting and killing as the only way to finally gain freedom from the white oppressors. Faust uses a quote from a young African-American soldier that is indicative of the general feeling that, “Those who would be free must strike the blow.”

The final section of the chapter deals with how men came to terms with their grisly work in the aftermath of a battle. Some wept while others hardened their hearts. Faust details how these men attempted to come to terms with their actions. Although fascinating, and perhaps due to this fascination, the chapter is highly disturbing. Faust shows the ways in which many soldiers overcame their initial aversion to killing. According to her, many were motivated to seek vengeance for the deaths of their comrades. She also deals with the horrifying fact, that as in all wars, some came to enjoy combat.

She quotes a soldier who wrote that, “To fire at a person who is firing at you is somehow wonderfully consolatory and sustaining; more than that, it is exciting and produces in you the so-called joy of battle.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

Justice feeds the bass-hungry hipsters at Sonar

By JOHN KERNAN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

There are many of us who have fallen all too willingly into a novel addiction. Mine began this past summer at a Daft Punk concert, while others have gotten their first dose at clubs and concerts around the world. I will freely admit it: I am totally addicted to bass.

I speak of sound waves somewhere below 200 hertz. Purists will insist on a waveform below 100, but I believe a wider range of sound is capable of getting the job done. We addicts sit at home in front of fancy hi-fi systems, or clutching expensive headphones against our heads, trying to recreate the effect of our first exposure.

But this is just a placeholder for real bass, merely the methadone of club music. What we really need is walls of speakers, stacks upon stacks of air-pummeling diaphragms. We need to feel our jeans vibrating behind our knees and our hearts rattling against our ribs.

Finally, we need to dance. We don’t care what we look like, one hand in the air, jumping and rocking with the music. Once the beast below grabs hold of us, nothing else matters.

As such, the promise of a Justice concert, with DJ Mehdi opening, is a Godsend. Both acts are from Paris and are on the same Parisian label, Ed Banger Records, the city and company known for producing life-saving house music.

Justice came into prominence last year with their hit “D.A.N.C.E.” which earned them three associated Grammy nominations.

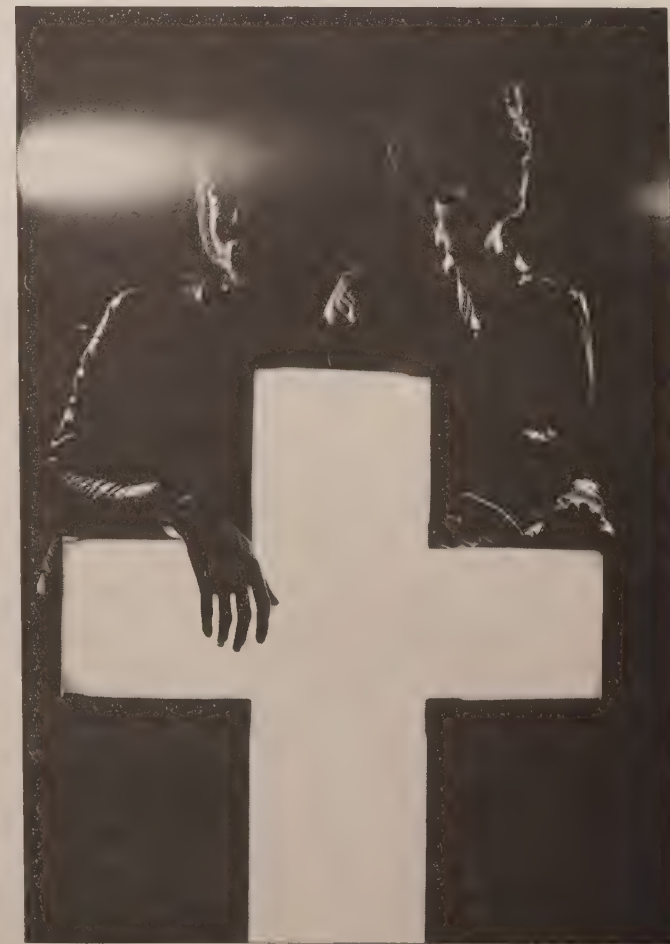
They’ve been touring the world seemingly non-stop, including a sold-out show Wednesday in Madison Square Garden. DJ Mehdi, lesser-known but still notable, has been rocking clubs for over a decade.

DJ Mehdi opened Sunday night at Sonar with a killer remix of Jape’s “Floating,” which immediately put him in my good graces. Mehdi worked the table furiously, but wasn’t one of those DJs who pretends that he’s actually performing all this music. When he was simply letting a track play, he would move away from his booth and dance. He sang along to his tracks, a smile on his face the entire time. As a fellow concertgoer put it, he seemed like “a pretty chill dude.”

Mehdi nailed one track after another, flooring the crowd which, for the most part, had never heard of him. Included in Mehdi’s set was a remix of Daft Punk’s “One More Time,” acknowledging his Parisian forebearers’ influence. Of course, Mehdi and the crowd made the obligatory hand pyramids. Later, he chose to use sexual female moaning to transition between two songs late in his set — to the audience’s boundless amusement. We were sad to see him end his set, but with the promise of Justice, we got over it.

Justice opened, appropriately, with “Genesis,” unveiling their iconic glowing cross, at which point the crowd went into what would be an hour-long state of hysteria. The expected surge toward the stage came quickly and with particular force, leaving some of us wedged sideways between larger concertgoers. We had our hands in the air — not just because of the rapturous influence of the music, but due to the fact that there was no room to leave them at our sides. And we loved it.

Sweaty hipster hairdos, dropped or thrown alcohol and the fluid from broken glow-sticks combined to form a sticky techno glaze over the mob. Track after track, Justice only improved on what were already excellent beats. Excellent remixes of “The Party” and “We Are Your Friends” stood out, but the tracks were mashed,



COURTESY OF HTTP://VICETYPEPAD.COM

Justice (Gaspard Augé and Xavier de Rosnay) pose with their iconic glowing cross.

mixed, and overlapped so thoroughly, it is difficult to define a favorite “song” among the fused beats of the set.

And of course, the bass — the sweet, sweet bass erupted from the stage, eliciting inaudible laughs from those around me. It filled us, moved us and sent us reeling. Justice intentionally played with the low end of the sound spectrum, giving us long, droning periods of bass, prompting the less enthusiastic to cover their ears in pain and turn away. We junkies, however, raised our chests and drank in every mo-

ment.

Justice provided the standard encore, which rocked just as hard as the rest of their set. They finished, leaving our ears ringing and legs sore from jumping for upwards of 90 minutes. We shuffled towards the exit.

Outside, I happened upon a fellow addict. I was coming down from the high, and the cold air didn’t help. I waved hello.

“Hey, you going to the MSTRKRFT concert on Wednesday?” she asked. I knew I shouldn’t, but I was already looking for my next fix.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

City of Men humanizes slum in Rio de Janeiro

By ALEXANDER TRAUM
Managing Editor

With the same producers and focus on the street gangs of Rio de Janeiro as the terrific *City of God*, I had high expectations for the follow-up, *City of Men*. *City of God*, directed by Fernando Meirelles, explored the violent, unpredictable life of urban gangs in Rio. The violence of the gangs reflected itself in the dynamic visuals and cinematography.

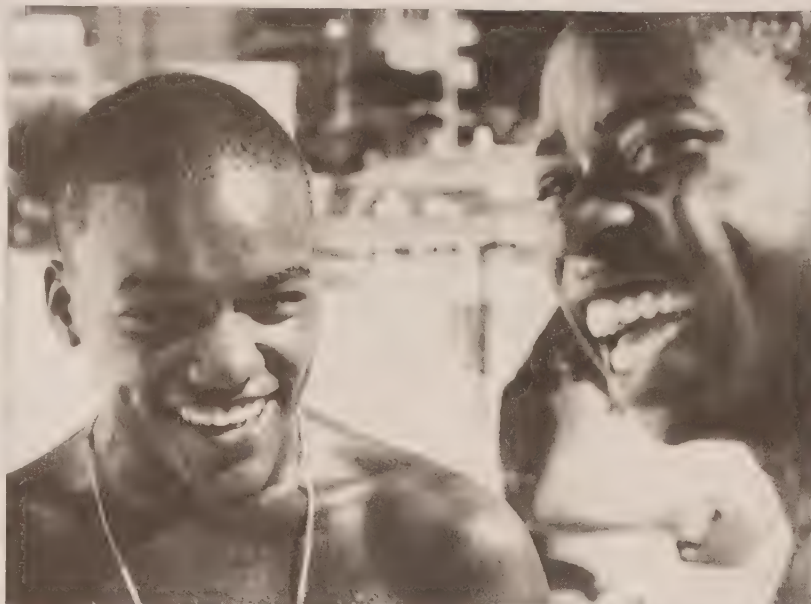
City of Men, directed by Meirelles's producing partner, Paulo Morelli, largely retains the color of the previous film though it takes a more personal turn as it looks at the effects of poverty and crime in the lives of two young men, Ace (Douglas Silva) and Wallace (Darlan Cunha).

Ace, an 18-year-old with a young child and a wife, is reluctant about the responsibilities of adulthood. Being a father and husband was the result of adoles-

cent fun, which he still wishes to retain.

At the beginning of the film, Ace treats his own son with a reckless abandon as he soaks in the sun on the beaches of Rio. Wallace, who is about to turn 18, is also plagued by demons as he obsesses over his own lack of a father. Wallace dreads receiving the identification card, which will not bear his father's surname.

As Wallace seeks out his father and Ace discovers what it means to be a father, the



Ace, played by Douglas Silva, and Wallace, played by Darlan Cunha, are childhood friends in *City of Men*. COURTESY OF ALLMOVIEPHOTOS.COM

The film's implicit message on the uselessness and utter silliness of gangs is effectively communicated through these battle scenes of disaffected youths. However, *City of Men* has more of a human touch than *City of God*, which portrays a near nihilistic landscape of emotionless bloodshed.

While the gang battles provide most of the movie's action, the stories of Ace and Wallace provide the majority of the drama. As Wallace tracks down his lost father, a story unravels involving both his and Ace's father and the past generation of gangs from the Hill. This narrative is simultaneously surprising and predictable: surprising in what we learned transpired between their fathers when they were young, yet predictable in the emotions that this knowledge elicits in Ace and Wallace.

This is one of the pitfalls of *City of Men*. Throughout the movie character development

happens in the blink of an eye. For a movie where the focus is on the characters, it is unfortunate that their emotional development seems contrived. This is not the fault of the actors, who flawlessly portray the young adults who are at once intimately familiar with tragedy and pain, yet also innocent. In *City of God* the characters do not learn leading to the cyclical and intergenerational nature of urban crime. The humanity presented in *City of Men*, on the other hand, lends a sense of optimism and hope to the challenges that seemed impenetrable in the previous film.

The cinematography reflects this shift towards a more character-centered movie. Like its predecessor, the film is imbued with color. Despite the violence and poverty that plague the neighborhood that is the movie's stage, it is also a place that is vibrant. The viewer gets a visceral feeling of the locale through the aerial shots of Rio, a city that is part a sprawling urban center and is also part jungle. The beach and party scenes, too, reflect the liveliness of Rio. However, the shots are less rushed and fast paced. The camera often dwells for a prolonged time on its subjects, grating the audience more access into the characters' internal constitutions.

The strength of *City of Men* is that it not only tackles the plight of poor neighborhoods in Rio, but does so by humanizing the various characters, both the heroes and the gangsters.

CITY OF MEN

Starring: Douglas Silva, Darlan Cunha, Jonathan Haagensen
Director: Paulo Morelli
Run Time: 110 min.
Rating: Not Rated
Playing At: The Charles

Faust explores Southern Civil War memories

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

The chapter entitled "Naming," is also one of the most successful chapter, which deals with the identification of the dead. As Faust provides excellent imagery, writing, "Men thrown by the hundreds into burial trenches; soldiers stripped of every identifying object before being abandoned on the field, bloated corpses hurried into hastily dug graves; nameless victims of dysentery or typhoid interred beside military hospitals; men blown to pieces by artillery shells; bodies hidden by woods or ravines, left to the depredations of hogs and wolves or time: the disposition of the Civil War dead made an accurate accounting of the fallen impossible." Despite the difficulties, people tried desperately to find out the fate of their loved ones. Pushed by the cataclysm of the war, the United States government for the first time created a system of military cemeteries.

Despite numerous insights, a well thought out structure, and clear, enjoyable writing, Faust's book is not quite perfect. She glosses over the general American perception of these deaths, how they justified them and how

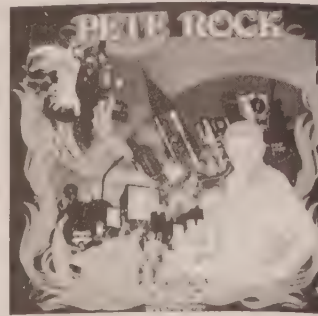
they came to terms with them collectively, as a nation.

She hints at that collective response, writing, "...by the end of the century the Dead had become the vehicle for a unifying national project of memorialization. Civil War death and the Civil War dead belonged to the whole nation." Instead of devoting only a few meager paragraphs near the end of her book to this national response, a more extensive review of the issue would have given the analysis of the death toll, more depth. Also, despite a few passing remarks, Faust almost completely ignores the thousands of men who died from disease rather than in combat. Health-related deaths were such a large part of the total death count that it seems irresponsible to not discuss them in a more detailed manner.

Aside from these flaws, however, Faust's account of death in the Civil War is quite enjoyable. Well written and insightful, it deals with a subject that most authors shy away from. Yet with an inventive overall structure, she manages to not only approach the matter of death respectfully, but also succeeds in honoring those 620,000.

New Vibrations

Pete Rock
NY's Finest
Caroline
Feb. 26, 2008



It was sometime in middle school that Pete Rock (along with Large Professor and DJ Premier) made an indelible stamp on my musical taste. Something about the mythology surrounding Pete Rock: his record collection that reportedly exceeded 100,000 records, his supernatural taste in music, and his ability to cull literally the dustiest breaks my 13-year-old ears had ever heard, laid the groundwork for what would be one of my greatest musical fantasies. Hearing "T.R.O.Y." for the first time set me off on a path, not just through the world of hip-hop, rap, soul and jazz, but through what has been now years of genuine audiophilia.

DJ Shadow once said he could listen to Pete Rock forever, because unlike most hip-hop producers who get caught on one trail of the boom bap (the hard drum beat in hip-hop music), Pete could take a three-second drum solo and re-work it for four minutes. RJD2, the acclaimed maker of sample collages that sound like fantasy bands, remarked on the poetic style of guys like Premier and Pete Rock since they could convey in four seconds what RJ could in four minutes. To be sure, if it weren't for Pete Rock, the haloed funk diggers of the Bonna-roo generation would be at a loss for what to sample.

Now that you've read my confession of adoration for Pete Rock, I will say that I am a firm believer that his moment in time existed nearly 10 years ago. The last album I heard the great producer do was *Petestrumentals*, his solo instrumental outing for the British BBE Label. I'll admit: The album bored me for the most part. I could hear elements that made me tense up like the old days, but something seemed a bit time-warped. The problem with the great trinity of '90s New York hip-hop producers, who literally hand crafted the sound of the modern boom bap, is that it just does not age well in today's world of cinematic synths

and hi-hats.

New York's Finest does not deviate from the Petestrumentals all that much. Or any of his previous catalogue, for that matter. In fact, it falls victim to the problem of remaining static to my ears. Pete's still chopping piano and wah funk (a guitar effect) samples. His beats still sputter and bang and retain the same analog quality of earlier works. I am sure I would appreciate this more if I were just getting into Pete Rock, but the fact is, as I have confessed before, I am very used to his oeuvre and as a result, am nostalgic for earlier released like *InI* and *Mecca* and the *Soul Brother*. Perhaps another downfall to this album is the *MCing*. With the exception of "Ready Fe War" which features Chip Fu and Renee Neufville, "Bring Y'all Back" with Raekwon and Masta Killa, the songs contain no-name New York rappers that I couldn't find less interesting.

That being said, if you are a fan of hip hop I am sure you will like or love this recording, and when I say hip hop, I am referring to the real stuff, coming from the age of *Breaking Atoms*, *Illmatic* and all the other classics that fit in the scene surrounding Rock, DJ Premier, DITC and Large Professor. In reflecting on whether this is a good introduction to Pete Rock, I have decided yes, potentially. If you find that this is an album you jam, dig up *Mecca* and the *Soul Brother*, from when it was Pete Rock and *CL Smooth* or the collector grail, *InI*. From there, you might be introduced to not only a lifetime of great music but also a vision of beat making that shook the world.

—Ravi Binning

Adam Green
Sixes and Sevens
Rough Trade Us
March 18, 2008



With notoriety fueled by her *Juno* soundtrack, Kimya Dawson has — somewhat unwillingly, it seems — become quite famous. Though it might seem fair to cast Simon vs. Garfunkel aspersions toward her former Moldy Peaches bandmate Adam Green, a listen to his newest, *Sixes and Sevens*, finds the songwriter in fine form (although Dawson does make a cameo). Green sheds some of the more twee aspects of the Peaches' dainty acoustic ballads for a firmer sound, anchored by his low register singing — a cheerier Leonard Cohen would be the easiest comparison — and some well-placed and sassy backup singers.

The songs are, on the whole, quick and not particularly deep, but they are sunny, with moments that recall Bob Weir's absurdity and Violent Femmes' lyricism — altogether nonthreatening but never staid. Green has a deft touch for quirkiness and sprinkles it throughout his tracks, from the staccato backbeat of "That Sounds Like A Pony" to the Andean pipes that drift through "You Get So Lucky." At times he flirts with a wheezy, worn-out roots rock sound, only to ditch it for a horn section or laidback guitar on the next, variations that keep the tracks moving at a sedate clip. The strongest of the bunch — the opening "Festival Song" and the melancholy "It's a Fine" among them — alternate between stripped-down melodies and barroom rock, a style Green, perhaps surprisingly, makes all his own with punchy lyrics and rolling delivery.

Though it sometimes feels as though the unseen hand of the producer has stepped in to

add an appealing backup chorus or some reverb, particularly on the cabaret-styled "Sticky Ricki," Green sticks to his guns and avoids studio wizardry that would leave his music cold and canned.

In fact, its the warmth of most of these tracks — the same heartfelt stylings that made the Moldy Peaches appealing — that elevates his music. For this fact among many, *Sixes and Sevens*, if not a particularly challenging album, certainly qualifies as a dependable one.

It's a testament to Green's low-key songwriting — which, like Dawson, never seems produced, crafted or intended for mass success — that *Sixes and Sevens* never trades what it does well for a chance to climb the charts. Though the album will likely not gain him the recognition that his 2003 single "Jessica" brought him — largely thanks to its titular subject, Jessica Simpson — Green truly doesn't seem to mind. If he had, *Sixes and Sevens* would likely be a much different album, with its personality neutered and its whimsy sedated. For now, Green seems to still have personality very much intact.

Green is about to launch a European tour in support of the album, beginning with the United Kingdom. His stateside following is growing, in light of a 2007 cover of "Teddy Boys" by Texan Kelly Willis. With luck, *Sixes and Sevens* may produce a new crop of infinitely cover-able tunes.

—Matt Hansen

BSO's Alsop aptly combines past and present

The Meyerhoff Symphony Hall was filled with local musical celebrities this past Sunday when Marin Alsop conducted the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's "Leonore Overture No. 3," "Symphony No. 5" and Baltimore-native Christopher Rouse's "Flute Concerto," with the composer in attendance. This mixture of well-known Beethoven with lesser known, yet critically acclaimed, contemporary pieces is an attempt by the Baltimore Symphony to draw new listeners, many of whom they hope to attract with the Beethoven and to expose them simultaneously to contemporary music.

This mixed bill of old and new music was a success, as the 2,443-seat Meyerhoff was almost full. Beginning the program was "Leonore Overture No. 3," Beethoven's third attempt at an overture for his only opera, *Fidelio*. Beethoven worked on *Fidelio* for over a decade, completing three versions and four overtures. The third overture was intended for the 1806 performance of the second version of the opera. The dramatic nature of the piece shone through with a particularly strong performance by the strings, which handled the subdued passages with wonderful clarity.

In a gesture reflecting the lofty goal of the concert series, i.e. showcasing more contemporary music, maestra Alsop turned to the audience and gave a quite lengthy introduction to the next piece. After discussing the overarching theme of Rouse's concerto and the ever-present influence of Gaelic folk music, Alsop explained the inspiration for *Elegia*, the concerto's third movement. In 1993, two English boys murdered two-year-old James Bulger and the third movement is Rouse's evocation of both the tragedy and a life never lived. Rouse described his jocular second movement as "Elgar on speed," and Alsop quipped that if this were true, then she did "not know what Elgar was on" when composing the fourth movement.

Then Emily Skala, principal flutist of the BSO, took the stage as the soloist and played the part well. Rouse's vision for the soloist is similar to that of Fauré's for the pianist in his "Ballade for

Piano," a quasi-piano concerto. The soloist in both pieces is not the focal point, rather someone who brings the individual advantages of their instrument (expressive capability, tone, etc.) to the forefront. With that being said, Skala's solos had a beautifully clear tone and were technically flawless. Her superb performance had Alsop dancing along during the second movement.

In a "Webumentary" on the BSO Web site, maestra Alsop tells of a friend who declined an invite to a performance of the Fifth, because he had already "heard it." Alsop proved that there is always room for creativity, even with a standard. Fate knocked quite rapidly at the symphony's door. The maestra took quicker tempi in all four movements, which enhanced the fury and jubilation of the first and fourth movements but hurried the more stately middle movements. The BSO players played with a focused, compact sound with only the upper strings sounding a bit rushed in the first movement.

Instead of a slight pause after the second "duh-duh-duh-dum" (the opening motif we all recognize), Alsop moved the orchestra right into the meat of the first movement and she never let up after that. The horns were a tour de force in the second movement, boldly stating the martial themes. By the fourth movement, the orchestra's pace was breathtaking. The BSO did not betray any difficulty and the runs in the lower strings appeared effortless. A well-deserved standing ovation ended the afternoon's performance.

In a highly anticipated move, Marin Alsop became the first woman conductor of a major American orchestra at the beginning of the 2007-2008 season, replacing Yuri Temirkanov at the helm of the BSO. The title of "first woman," however, is only one of many accomplishments that make Alsop a world-renowned conductor. She is the only conductor to receive the coveted MacArthur Fellowship (better known as "the genius grant"); she also won Gramophone's 2003 "Artist of the Year" and a 2007 European Women of Achievement Award.

It may seem intimidating

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Mystery novelist returns home for book tour

By JONATHAN DITROIA
For The News-Letter

As apart of a 15-city tour, critically-acclaimed writer, *New York Times* bestseller and former *Baltimore Sun* reporter Laura Lippman visited the Hopkins Barnes & Noble on Tuesday to promote her new novel, *Another Thing to Fall*. Published this month, Lippman's narrative follows protagonist Tess Monaghan, a native of Baltimore known for her work as a private investigator. *Another Thing to Fall* marks the 10th installment of Lippman's crime caper series.

Before focusing on a career in writing and teaching (currently at Goucher College in Maryland), Lippman was a reporter for 20 years, 12 of which were spent at the *Sun*.

Having attended Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Lippman, after a short stint writing for Texas pappets, inevitably returned to Baltimore in 1989.

Lippman's first Tess Monaghan novel, *Baltimore Blues* (1997), won her a nomination for the prestigious Shamus Award, which is given to the best private eye-genre novel or short story of the year.

Her success as a novelist continued to earn her acclaim, most notably with the 2007 novel *What the Dead Know*, which was the first of her books to make the *New York Times* Bestseller List. In addition, she has won other numerous awards, including Author of the Year by the Maryland Library Association.

Lippman's husband is David Simon, executive producer of *The Wire*, and to a certain extent the narrative is influenced by her own personal life.

She said, "In a lot of ways what I did in this book would seem counterintuitive to my desire to not talk about my private or personal life, but the fact of the matter is this television show has been a part of my life..."

Lippman's novel is heavily invested in the city and the unique society which is a product of it — as similar to *The Wire*, *Another*

Thing to Fall examines a facet of Baltimore life which, though fictional, is nevertheless a telling sociological portrayal with uncommon and meaningful themes.

As Lippman said, "I do love the city, and I wanted to explore that." And despite these parallels, Lippman's intentions for the novel produced an original adventure: "I didn't want to write a book about *The Wire* ... I had to create my own television show; it had to be done with archetypal California hipster types ... I needed a culture clash."

As Lippman explains, in her newest adventure 34-year-old "[Tess] is drawn very reluctantly into a world of film" when the crew and stars of the fledging TV series *Mann of Steel* invade Charm City in the usual Hollywood-like manner.

The novel immerses the reader in the glamorous Hollywood world, one of which Tess herself knows little. But despite feeling out of place, an occasion of murder occurs during filming and Tess must reprise her role as a private investigator. With crime, certain secrets surrounding the production of *Mann of Steel* are thus exposed. As Tess becomes further involved within the murder case, seemingly vague and insignificant mysteries come to threaten both the city and the people to which she holds most dear.

A good novelist develops characters that are portrayed with the necessary complexities belonging to any human individual; Tess Monaghan is a testament to Lippman's authority over her fictional creations. A current resident of Baltimore's Roland Park, Tess Monaghan is something of a scatterbrain in her own right.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
As a Baltimore native, Lippman feels at home discussing the release of the 10th book in her series.

After graduating from Washington College in Chestertown, Md. with a major in English Literature, she begins work as a reporter for the *Baltimore Star*, but after three years of employment, the newspaper goes under.

After spending a significant period of time as a freelance writer while working in her aunt's bookstore, upon a friend's request Tess enters the crime practice as a private investigator. Though her business is initially unstable, as time progresses her expertise develops whereby eventually her skill and renown become well known by the Baltimore locals.

The numerous parallels between Monaghan and her creator are staggering in the most obvious sense, though Lippman maintains that Tess is very much a character in her own right. Though flattered by this common comparison made by readers between author and character, Lippman maintains their almost opposing personalities.

"The relationship [between Tess and I] is more like Patty and Cathy on the old *Patty Duke Show*.

I'm Cathy, the cultured one who has traveled widely, while Tess has only seen the sights a girl can see from O'Donnell Heights."

In a more general sense, Lippman emphasized the fictional traits of her characters, saying, "One of the things about writing the Tess Monaghan novels is that I've been used to people saying that this character represents so-and-so in real life ... I know that people read like that, but these relations are not in my head, not in my imagination — even though there are some facts sprinkled throughout the story, I assure you no "real person" was on my mind or is depicted in the novel."

In several ways, the Tess Monaghan crime dramas are inspired by Lippman's own esteem of episodic fiction. She said, "I came to be a writer of a series as a lover of series fiction ... I love returning to familiar worlds — those certain recognizable touchstones."

Published by William Morrow, a subsidiary of HarperCollins, *Another Thing to Fall* is now available in bookstores throughout the county.

New Play Festival entertains with creative, novel ideas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

ten by senior Liz Eldridge and directed by junior Christen Cromwell, was performed entirely by senior Margaret Deli. In the play, Suzee visits her doctor/friend (played by a mannequin) to request a tubal ligation (that is, to get her "tubes tied"). A victim of domestic violence, Suzee does not want to bring a child into her home. But she needs the attention her husband gives her and cannot imagine having her husband's attention diverted to anyone else.

Deli did an excellent job portraying such a complicated character. While we might feel revulsion for such a life, we feel empathy for her thanks to a well-paced script and Deli's powerful performance.

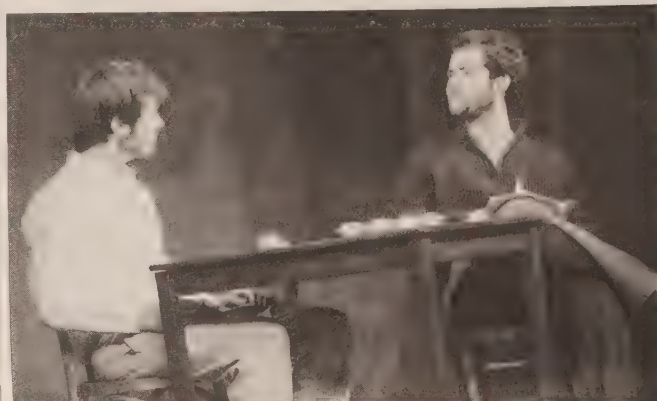
Senior Joseph Micali's "Document 1" was an exercise in experimental anti-monologue. Written and starred in by Micali and directed by Chris Chuang, the monologue moved from topic to topic, with Micali ranting, singing and leaping. Micali clearly did not intend for it to be terribly deep, but it was very entertaining. In a show that culminated with Micali running outside screaming, we found the most memorable act of the night, though not the most thought-provoking.

"The Chair" was written by junior Oleg Shik and directed by Joseph Micali. The play revolved around the final stages in the re-

lationship between Doyle (sophomore Jack Berger) and Terry (sophomore David Santare). The titular chair had stated symbolic meaning for the relationship. Doyle wanted Terry to keep the chair after the breakup, else he be reminded of Terry's massages and forced to relive his loss. While well-acted and convincing, the story was a bit predictable. The novel factor of a gay couple only took it so far. Regardless, it was entertaining and certainly not a subpar play.

Finally, JHUT presented the winner of the American College Theatre Festival Region II 10-Minute Play contest, "Without Parachutes." Written and directed by Eric Levitz, we meet Charlie and Carrie (juniors Scott Morse and Brittany Matava) as they experience a plane crash. To escape the terror of their imminent deaths, they recreate the first time Carrie invited Charlie to her apartment, but their flashback is constantly interrupted by the realities their present situation. One can't argue with the American College Theatre Festival: This play was a winner. The parallel of the the plane crash and the "crash" of falling in love were apparent but not forced. The play presented an interesting, novel idea in a logical way.

The festival gave undergraduates a creative outlet, and fortunately, it also gave the audience a fantastic night at the theater.



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Juniors Mike Wills and Raffi Krut-Landau starred in Sal Gentile's "Freaky Observers."

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

U.S. Army plans next generation of military robots *AIDS patients face new risk of common cancers*

CONTINUED FROM B1

So are autonomous armed robots the next step? This was the topic of debate last week at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London.

The military think-tank heard arguments from Pentagon-funded researchers who are hoping to develop robots with ethics and moral guidelines.

Others, fearing a rise of the machines, demand the prohibition of autonomous weaponry until it can be certain these "killer robots" have a conscience — more *Iron Giant*, less *Terminator*.

Those working on giving robots a sense of right and wrong hope to develop a system where the machine would question orders it deemed unethical. Human operators would then be notified and could force the robot to continue its course of action or yield to the robot's moral judgment.

One prototype currently under development, a 235-pound robot with an M240B machine gun, can be programmed not to shoot in certain zones so as to protect against friendly fire.

But for now, armed robotic weaponry still has human beings calling the shots — literally — via remote control.

The Talon brand of robots includes Special Weapons Observation Reconnaissance Detection Systems or SWORDS. Designed by technology development company Foster-Miller, these machine gun-toting robots arrived in Iraq in June but did not fire a single shot due to unspecified technical errors.

Talon SWORDS currently cost \$230,000 before mass production. Each unarmed version of Talon costs \$60,000. America has an annual defense budget of \$500 billion.

Robots are currently used to control unmanned vehicles on land, in the air and under the sea.

Crusher, a six-wheeled robot, rolls through ditches, walls, streams, other vehicles and al-

most anything else that gets in its way.

Owners of the Volkswagen Jetta will be proud to know that they share the same engine as the Crusher, a seven-ton, completely autonomous robot. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency will soon set these robots rolling over, under and through anything in their path, and hope they have the same impact as their last big project: the Internet.

By 2015,

the Pentagon hopes to have a third of its combat vehicles piloted by robots, with soldiers able to take over controls from a remote location at any time.

Robots are also used to disarm improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the cause of death for a vast majority of soldiers. Since the war began, 1,720 soldiers have been killed by IEDs according to the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

However, the thousands of explosives-detecting robots currently in Iraq and Afghanistan have reportedly found and prevented the detonation of 10,000 IEDs.

An original, unarmed Talon robot nicknamed "Gordon" discovered eight deeply buried IEDs, 18 landmines and 300 pounds of home made explosives before it



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The Talon robot, designed by Foster-Miller, is among the first robots to be widely used in combat operations.

was destroyed by gunfire.

Because of this, the number of robots used in Iraq and Afghanistan has more than tripled in the past three years, and the Pentagon plans to add 3,000 more by the end of this year.

After messy negotiations and legal issues, iRobot swept away the competition in its quest to become the company responsible for producing these robots. iRobot plans to soon unveil Warrior, a 250-pound robot with .30 caliber machine gun — big changes for a company best known for producing the robotic vacuum Roomba.

The military already uses Hellfire missiles — which need no guidance after being launched — and remote controlled, unmanned planes called Predators, another Schwarzenegger movie

reference.

Some have argued that this boom in autonomic weaponry will lead to a competition between countries as to who can stockpile the most autonomic technology.

But while a robot-race sounds much more exciting than an arms-race or a three-legged-race, the idea of programming robots with their own Jiminy Cricket for moral guidance might get lost along the way.

By VRITIKA PRAKASH
News-Letter Staff Writer

AIDS is a complicated clinical syndrome that involves an increased risk of a wide range of disorders, from infections to cancers to dementia. As physicians have come to appreciate the diseases AIDS patients are likely to develop, the rates of these additional disorders have decreased.

A new study from the Hopkins Department of Medicine shows an unexpected finding in

records of 2,566 Hopkins Hospital AIDS patients from 1996 through 2005. Overall rates of ADCs decreased from 12.5 cases per 1,000 in 1996 to 3.5 cases per 1,000 in 2005 — an overall decrease of almost 75 percent.

At the same time, the rates of several non-ADCs increased dramatically. The annual incidence rate increased from 3.9 to 7.1 cases per 1,000 between 1996 and 2005, a trend that was confirmed to be statistically significant.

Some of the most common can-

cers, including liver and lung cancers, were five to 39 times more common in HIV-positive patients than in the general public.

Patients who were older were more

Lung and liver cancers were five to 39 times more common in HIV-positive patients than in the general public.

ADCs include Kaposi sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and cervical cancer, all of which are caused by viral infections. Other cancers are considered non-AIDS-defining, or non-ADCs.

The Hopkins group studied patients receiving today's standard AIDS treatment, highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). Patients on HAART had a decreased rate of ADCs, as expected. Surprisingly, however, their rates of other cancers have increased.

The researchers performed a retrospective analysis of clinical

likely to develop non-ADCs. Patients who were injection drug users or were infected with hepatitis-B or hepatitis-C virus were also more likely to develop non-ADCs. Age, race and sex were found not to be major risk factors.

The finding that non-ADC rates are increasing in AIDS patients is a considerable public health concern. It indicates that doctors need to screen AIDS patients more carefully for these cancers, and it could indicate a shift in the diseases associated with AIDS thanks to improved treatments for some conditions.

Rethinking chemical signals in bird brains

By BEN KALLMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

A group of researchers, led by Gregory Ball of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, has uncovered evidence for an intriguing kind of chemical crosstalk in the brain. Their finding — that the neurotransmitter dopamine interacts with a class of receptors normally associated with a different neurotransmitter — provides an exception to a basic principle of neuroscience.

Since dopamine's discovery in 1952 by two Swedish researchers, the conventional wisdom has been that it binds uniquely to dopamine receptors. This, in turn, has been *sine qua non* for studying the role of dopamine in neurological disorders like Parkinson's disease as well as the neural basis of drug addiction, motivation and pleasure.

Indeed, this principle — that a neurotransmitter will only bind to its own complementary class of receptors — is a central tenet of modern neuroscience. Scientists expect that serotonin will bind to serotonin receptors, acetylcholine to acetylcholine receptors, and so on.

Nonetheless, a host of recent research has hinted that dopamine may, in fact, interact with other kinds of receptors. Until now, however, no hard evidence has yet been uncovered. Towards this goal, Ball and his colleagues chose to study one receptor, the alpha-2-adrenergic receptor, in the zebra finch brain.

The choice of a bird was not random. "Zebra finches are songbirds that possess a specialized neural circuit that controls the learning and production of song," Ball said.

The potential for dopamine to bind to other receptors seems especially likely in the brains of songbirds, including the zebra finch. The neural systems that produce the complex series of vocalizations comprising a bird's song have been mapped out in great detail.

This fact has allowed specific pathways and areas in the songbird's brain to be linked to specific aspects of a bird's song. More important to the present study, lots of dopamine and dopamine-like molecules have been shown to be highly concentrated in the bird brain's song-production areas.

One of these dopamine-like molecules is norepinephrine,



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The zebra finch brain is wired to accept multiple chemical signals in a single cell.

which binds to alpha-2-adrenergic receptors. "There are high densities of certain noradrenergic receptor subtypes in these brain nuclei involved in song control," Ball said.

There are, however, many reasons to believe that dopamine could also bind to norepinephrine receptors. For one, dopamine and norepinephrine are chemical siblings.

Indeed, dopamine and norepinephrine are only one degree removed in the chain of neurotransmitter synthesis that takes place in neurons' cell bodies. There, enzymes turn dopamine into norepinephrine by lopping off a hydroxyl group, which consists of an oxygen and a hydrogen, and replacing it with a simple carbon group.

First, the team needed to answer a few basic questions: Does dopamine bind at all to alpha-2-adrenergic receptors? If so, how well does it bind? To figure this out, the team injected zebra finches with a radioactive alpha-2-adrenergic receptor antagonist.

In technical parlance, a receptor antagonist is a substance that binds to a particular receptor without evoking any biological response. Because it was radioactive, the injected antagonist allowed the team to pinpoint exactly where alpha-2-adrenergic receptors were located in the finch's song areas.

But it also let the researchers

test their dopamine-binding hypothesis.

The key idea here is that all binding is competitive. Hundreds of molecules, each with its own affinity for a particular receptor, vie for the privilege to bind to a single receptor. Thus, if dopamine does indeed interact with alpha-2-adrenergic receptors, it should displace the radioactive antagonist.

That's exactly what the researchers observed. Dopamine, they found, has an affinity for the alpha-2-adrenergic receptor — albeit between ten and 28 times lower than norepinephrine, the receptor's "classical" binding partner.

"This means that a neurotransmitter system whose activity and release is regulated in a manner quite distinct from norepinephrine can also act upon the song system via adrenergic receptors," Ball said.

Nonetheless, the researchers cautioned that the physiological significance of dopamine's binding to this novel class of receptor is uncertain.

Interestingly, the team's results do seem to extend to non-bird brains (species-wise, that is). "We've conducted studies on this phenomenon in rats and on a cell line that expresses the human adrenergic receptor and found similar results," Ball said. "So, we do think this finding applies to mammals, including humans."

Study finds early signs of heart disease

By ALICE WU
News-Letter Staff Writer

One of the key factors of the leading cause of death in the United States, coronary artery diseases, is the hardening of arterial walls through buildup of fat, cholesterol and excessive waste produced by cells, a process known as atherosclerosis.

Atherosclerotic buildup, or plaque, can significantly block or alter blood flow in the arteries that supply the oxygen-dependent heart muscle.

Plaques can also rupture, causing blood loss and muscle damage. These blockages and ruptures can trigger long-term weakening of the heart and, often, heart attacks.

Understanding the causes and risk factors that contribute to the development and onset of atherosclerosis and plaque rupture will provide insight for developing better treatments and preventative measures for coronary syndromes.

Ruptures are responsible for up to 75 percent of all acute heart problems.

Bruce Wasserman's team of researchers at the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at the Hopkins School of Medicine, in association with doctors in the Department of Pathology, studied cardiovascular risk factors that are associated with atherosclerosis.

Wasserman's group analyzed data from the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA), a long-term study following healthy individuals, some of whom could go on to develop heart disease.

As the name suggests, the study included members of several ethnic minorities from across the country. The goal of this study organization was to appreciate any differences in risk factors that might be associated with ethnic or racial background.

Initially, a total of 6,814 participants free of cardiovascular disease history were selected to participate in the study at six locations across the country.

Wasserman and his group

used ultrasound and MRI to identify individuals with thickening of the arterial walls, which is characteristic of atherosclerosis. MRI studies were also used to find plaques and lipid cores.

Lipid cores are large accumulations of fat that can be deposited in an artery, usually near a wall, and can serve as the "seed" for further plaque growth. Even a small amount of lipid in an artery can attract large amounts of cholesterol and other fats, eventually leading to severe fat buildup and atherosclerosis.

To measure known cardiovascular risk factors, blood was drawn immediately after the MRI test and again within a 30-day window.

Both high-density lipoprotein, commonly termed "good" cholesterol for its ability to reduce cholesterol buildup in arteries, and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol or "bad" cholesterol were measured and analyzed along with blood pressure and body mass index.

The study showed that the presence of a lipid core was significantly related to carotid wall thickness but not so much with

other factors such as smoking and hypertension.

The association between cholesterol and lipid cores was still strong even in patients who used lipid-lowering medication.

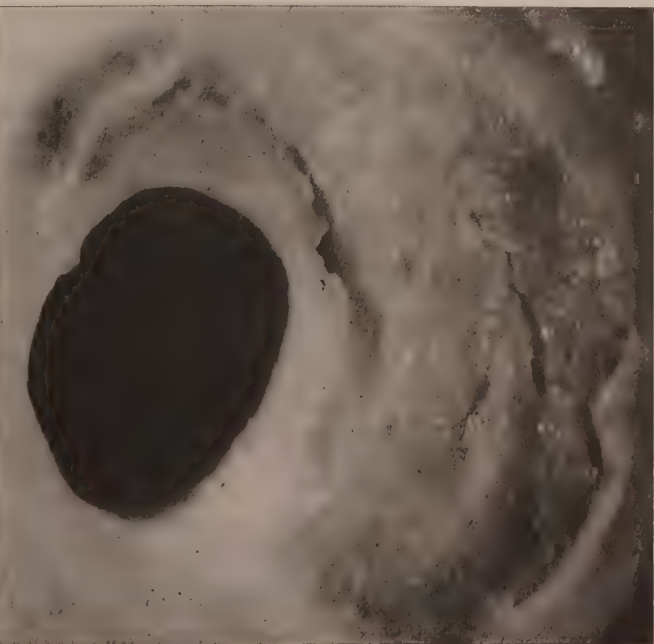
Of the major risk factors associated with atherosclerosis, plasma cholesterol levels are strongly associated with the presence of lipid cores.

This association is still significant even after adjustments for carotid artery thickness, medication use, and the presence of other risk factors such as smoking and diabetes.

This study is particularly significant because it involved a large pool of ethnically diverse participants, so the results are more related to the pathological causes of plaque rupture and atherosclerosis than external environmental and lifestyle factors that are already well-studied.

This also largely corrected the biased results from previous studies of the same problem.

Ultimately, the results of this study can be applied to develop better methods of recognizing plaque formation before it endangers the heart muscle.



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The inside of an atherosclerotic artery is covered in potentially deadly fat deposits.

New anti-malaria drug is promising in early tests

By JOCELYN WAGMAN
For The News-Letter

Every 30 seconds a child in Africa dies of malaria, according to the World Health Organization, and between one and two million people die from this disease around the world every year, said Gary Posner, professor of chemistry in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Posner and others at Hopkins, including colleagues from the School of Medicine and the Bloomberg School of Public Health, recently published a paper in the prestigious *Journal of the American Medical Association* that explains their development of a new anti-malarial drug.

The drug has stirred excitement because it has a 100 percent success rate in curing malaria when given orally to infected mice.

"We hoped to find a safe and efficacious cure for people who have malaria. We have succeeded through the stage of testing on rodents," Posner said.

While preventive strategies like insecticide-treated bed nets are effective in slowing the transmission of malaria, they are not available in some areas where malaria is prevalent.

Furthermore, as of yet there is no vaccine for the disease. As a result, many people don't have protection against the mosquitoes that transmit malaria, and so hundreds of millions of people are currently infected.

Formerly common drugs like quinine, the oldest anti-malarial, and others of the same class called

alkaloids, are becoming increasingly ineffective as the parasite becomes resistant, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) *Guidelines*.

As a result, WHO is recommending combination drug therapies. According to WHO's *Guidelines*, certain combination therapies have been shown to reduce the number of parasites in an individual infected with malaria at a much higher rate than other kinds of anti-malarial drugs.

Posner's lab used chemicals derived from trioxane artemisinin, a chemical ingredient often found in Chinese herbal remedies, paired with an alkaloidal drug. The approach is called artemisinin combination therapy.

The lab created 11 combinations, using methods of organic and medicinal chemistry, that fit the commonly accepted criteria for 100 percent efficacy — the complete absence of malaria parasites in the blood 30 days post-infection.

Posner's interest in artemisinin grew out of a project he worked on with the biology department at Hopkins that was unrelated to malaria. While experimenting with a chemical group called peroxides, his interest was piqued when he learned that they were an important ingredient in Chinese folk medicine and he decided to pursue them.

Fifteen years later he and his lab have produced an exciting drug that could have widespread future applications.

Although this group of drug has been shown to cure malaria

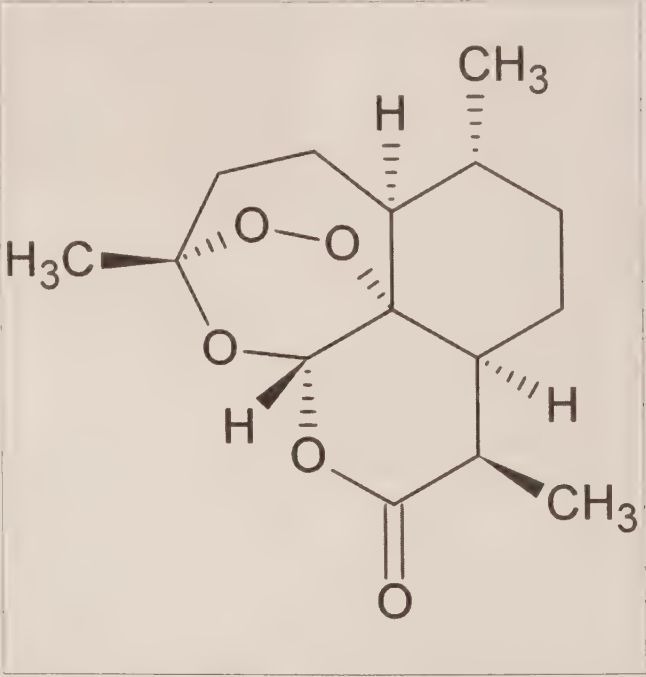
with 100 percent efficacy, Posner hopes to continue refining his research. "We certainly will be involved in designing related compounds with higher efficacy. Instead of three doses we are aiming for a cure via one dose."

Reducing the regimen from three days to one would make the drugs less expensive and increase the chances of its being taken correctly, which is a priority because according to WHO, most malaria treatment takes place in poor, rural areas.

Knowing this, Posner's group

made an effort to reduce the number of steps necessary to produce the chemicals needed to make the drug more affordable and therefore practical as a treatment option for people with malaria, a disproportionate percentage of whom are children.

Although much more testing must be done before these drugs are used to treat people with malaria, according to Posner, their creation "represents a major advance in the development of new drug candidates for the treatment of malaria."



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The chemical structure of artemisinin shows medically useful reactive sites.

Cell-surface protein controls aggressiveness of cancer

By NEIL NEUMANN
For The News-Letter

A team of researchers led by Stephen Baylin, a professor of oncology at the Hopkins School of Medicine, has recently uncovered an important factor in the severity of pancreatic cancer.

His group has characterized the molecular distinctions between localized and aggressive pancreatic cancer. Insights found stemming from this research will provide new avenues for pancreatic cancer treatments.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest forms of cancer. Roughly 40,000 people will be newly diagnosed this year and 35,000 will die from it, making it the fourth-leading cause of cancer deaths. Although it may not be the most prevalent of cancer, it is deadly: Only 5 percent of patients are alive 5 years after diagnosis.

One reason pancreatic cancer is so deadly is because most cases are not diagnosed until the cancer is fully progressed. If a cancer reaches this stage, treatment options are limited.

Most of the research into pancreatic cancer has focused on the primary tumors in patients as opposed to the more advanced disease, which actually kills the patients.

Also, even though 80 percent of pancreatic cancers are unresectable, meaning they cannot be removed by surgery, research has generally focused on those that can be removed.

This bias has led to poor understanding of the molecular biology

of the most clinically relevant pancreatic cancers. This is where Baylin and his team stepped in to determine the role of the E-Cadherin protein and its implications in pancreatic cancers.

E-Cadherin is a transmembrane protein that is involved in cell-to-cell adhesion or linkages. E-Cadherin is found in epithelial tissue including the intestines and pancreas.

It has been known that loss of E-Cadherin expression correlates with progression of cancers to a more advanced stage.

It is thought that loss of this protein allows the cells to be more mobile, thus allowing them to escape the primary tumors and metastasize or spread to other parts of the body. It is important to understand this process of E-Cadherin loss because 90 percent of cancer deaths are the result of metastases.

Baylin and his group wanted to study the differences between those pancreatic cancers that express and do not express E-Cadherin. He first defined two categories of pancreatic cancers — cohesive and non-cohesive.

The first has E-Cadherin expression and forms glands and ducts in the tumor. Non-cohesive do not have E-Cadherin expression and also does not form glands nor ducts.

The next step in the research was to show that when the cancers turn from cohesive to non-cohesive, there is a specific loss of E-Cadherin rather than a more general loss of all related epithelial markers.

They showed that E-Cadherin was specifically lost and not other markers of cancer in pancreatic cells.

Finally, the researchers wanted to show a possible mechanism underlying the loss of E-Cadherin.

They first looked to see if the E-Cadherin gene was mutated and found that it was not. Loss of E-Cadherin expression is not the result of it being mutated.

They looked further at epigenetic markers associated with the E-Cadherin gene. What they found is that the E-Cadherin genes of the non-cohesive pancreatic cancers had methylated promoter sequences.

Methylation is a process in which multiple carbon groups are added to the beginning of a DNA sequence of a gene to silence it, preventing its expression into protein.

The cohesive cancers had no

methylation in E-Cadherin. These cells were expressing E-Cadherin and had made no effort to block the corresponding gene.

These results show for the first time a possible underlying molecular mechanism involved in making a pancreatic cancer more aggressive.

The researchers also took frozen tissue samples from patients with different pancreatic cancers and looked for E-Cadherin expression. Those that had E-Cadherin loss also had decreased survival times compared to those patients with little or no loss of E-Cadherin.

This finding shows that E-Cadherin is a clinically relevant marker that can be used to look at the progression of the cancer.

With this new knowledge, Baylin and his team hope to create new therapies targeting the progression of pancreatic cancers using E-Cadherin as their focus.

Slingbox lets you stream TV right to your computer

By DENNIS KO
News-Letter Staff Writer

I'm betting that most students have cable or satellite at home but not at their apartments or dorms. So if you're like me, a die-hard Lakers fan, you're probably missing your favorite TV show when it's on. There's always the lounge's TV, but who wants to share the TV with someone else, right?

Thanks to a new product called Slingbox, you don't have to anymore. You can watch TV right there on your PC, Mac or cell phone as long as it's connected to the Internet. Slingbox is a box that connects to a video source, like your cable box, and broadcasts that input to your connected PC/Mac/phone over the Internet. Depending on which type of Slingbox you get, you can have different inputs.

The most basic Slingbox model is the Tuner, which only accepts cable and antennae inputs. Then there's the AV, which allows for composite inputs, for those of you who have Dish or DirecTV. This can also work with your TiVo or other DVR (digital video recorder), in addition to the standard cable inputs.

At the top of the family is the Pro, which allows for high-definition inputs, along with multiple device inputs, meaning you can control several devices with your Slingbox. For the nitty-gritty details, Slingbox acts essentially as a remote, also controlled over the Internet.

You'll see a virtual remote on your computer screen that commands the Slingbox and, thus, the connected input source. This allows you to watch your source, which could be thousands of miles away, right there on your PC.

One of the downsides of Slingbox is that it monopolizes your

input source. So if you're going to beam DirecTV from home, you will need a separate DirecTV box for Slingbox because Slingbox essentially takes over that box.

Unless whoever is at home wants to watch the same exact thing you're watching, you're out of luck. You're going to have to get a separate source for each Slingbox.

Another downside is the lag time. There's probably a good five-second lag, just from observing my TV and Slingboxed PC playing the same show on my home network. On top of that, you also need a pretty fast Internet connection, upstream and downstream, to be able to use Slingbox effectively.

Otherwise, your PC will just wind up buffering the stream more often than not, causing your video to appear in brief bursts. But with Slingbox ranging from \$60 for the Tuner to \$100 for the AV to \$200 for the Pro, I still think it's a great deal for students who already have cable at home. Cable alone can easily run you \$30 a month, so why pay for cable when your parents are already paying for it at home? Slingbox is a great buy.

SLINGBOX

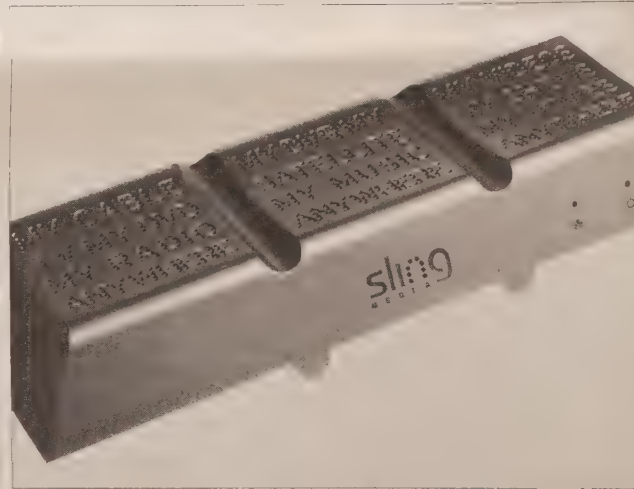
From: Slingmedia

Models: The Tuner, The AV, The Pro

Price: \$60 to \$200, depending on the model

Available at: Electronics retailers and <http://www.slingmedia.com>

Grade: A-



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.SLINGMEDIA.COM](http://www.slingmedia.com)
The Slingbox sends signals from your TV over the Internet, allowing for easy viewing.

Bone studies show human ancestor walked on two legs

By SAM OHMER
News-Letter Staff Writer

It's a well-known fact that bones can tell great stories: stories of crimes, stories of age, stories of travel and change.

Christopher Ruff of the Hopkins School of Medicine also uses bones to tell a story — the story of our evolutionary past. He studies the fossils of hominids, our closest human-like ancestors, especially the species *Homo erectus*.

Ruff is interested in the origins of bipedalism, the ability to walk on two legs, which is seen in modern humans but few other species.

Bipedalism "is one of the most important — some would say, the most important — characteristic defining modern humans and their ancestors, early hominins, back to the split from African apes. So, being able to recognize when and how that occurred in the fossil record is very important," Ruff said.

Evidence suggests that *Homo erectus* is an especially important hominid because it was the first to leave Africa and spread to the rest of the Old World. They looked quite similar to modern humans, though with a significantly smaller brain.

It is likely that *Homo erectus* was socially similar to modern humans as well, being hunter-gatherers and actually using tools such as hand axes to do their work. It has been suggested that *Homo erectus* could communicate in a more sophisticated manner than modern apes, even

though they probably lacked the capacity for true speech.

Ruff has studied the upper leg and arm bones of two complete *Homo erectus* fossils to learn more about how they might have moved. Previously, skeletal studies of the two remains have included external length measurements.

Ruff has found something even more interesting by studying not just the exterior dimensions, but also bone width and strength by using radiological scans, much like a doctor might order.

Because bipedal, or two-footed, animals exert a lot of force on their legs by carrying most of their weight on them, the shape and strength of their leg bones are very different from those of quadrupeds, or four-footed animals, which distribute their weight more equally among all four legs.

This is the basic idea behind Ruff's study, in which he has examined the femur and humerus of both complete *Homo erectus* skeletons, one a fully grown adult and the other still an adolescent. In addition to the hominid skeletons, Ruff has also studied the bones of adult humans and adult chimpanzees as a basis of comparison.

If *Homo erectus* skeletal properties are more similar to chimp bone properties, the data would seem to support *Homo erectus* walking on two legs and two arms, much like a chimpanzee or a gorilla, while more human-like results would support the

traditional upright *Homo erectus* model.

Ruff has found that the leg and arm bones of *Homo erectus* are much more similar to human bones than to the bones of chimpanzees. "This indicates that [*Homo erectus*] had a locomotor repertoire that was indistinguishable from that of modern humans," Ruff said.

This hypothesis has been around for quite some time, of course and has been generally accepted, but Ruff's experiment is important in that it confirms the assumption that *Homo erectus* walked upright with truly scientific data and not just an extrapolation from other human and hominid specimens' behaviors.

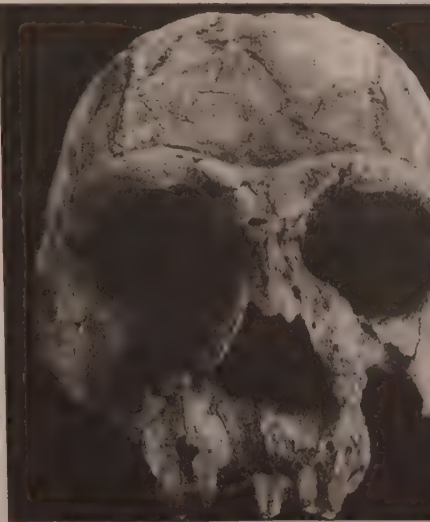
Knowing that *Homo erectus* could indeed walk upright allows for the idea that *Homo erectus* could have traveled quite long distances, which explains why it was *Homo erectus* and not earlier hominids that left Africa.

It has also been found that there are gender-linked skeletal differences in modern humans, a trend somewhat mimicked in Ruff's *Homo erectus* samples. This finding implies, tentatively, that

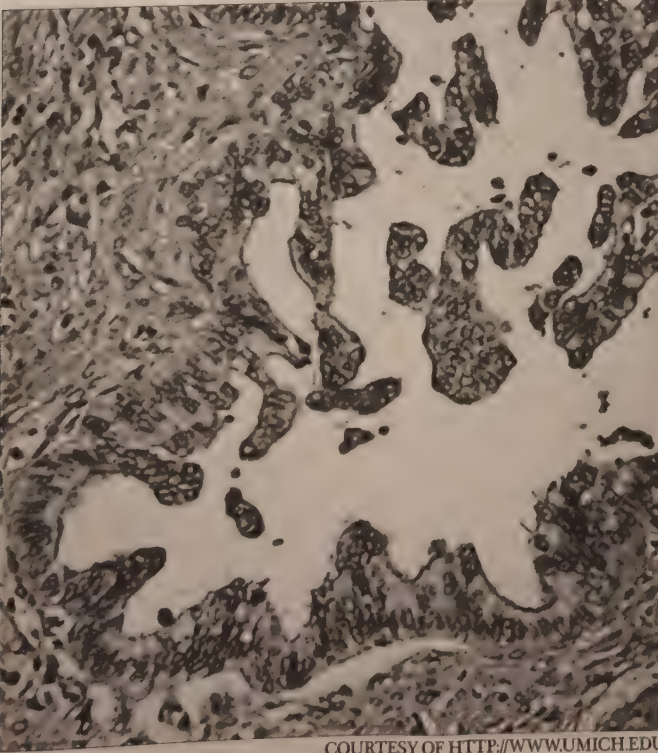
perhaps even 1.7 million years ago, there were sexual dimorphisms, or pronounced differences in the anatomy of members of the same species across gender lines.

Ruff will continue his research into humanity's ancestors. Currently, he is under way in his investigation of "another virtually contemporaneous early hominid, this time a *Homo habilis* specimen, dated to 1.8 million years ago. This specimen shows a very different pattern — much more chimp-like — demonstrating that there was significant locomotor variability among even early *Homo*."

There is still quite a lot left to learn about our most recent ancestors: their biology, their behavior and their lives.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ANTHROPOLOGY.COM](http://www.anthropology.com)
A fossilized *Homo erectus* skull looks remarkably modern.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.UMICH.EDU](http://www.umich.edu)
A stained section of pre-cancerous pancreas shows a few cells breaking off from the main tissue, potentially forming a tumor. E-cadherin might regulate this process.

YOUR NEWS-LETTER

Some major sex stereotypes

By GRACE GWENDOLYN HENRY
News-Letter Staff Writer

Presenting: A humorous analysis (based on stereotypes) of how each of Hopkins's majors relate to sex. No minors will be included, since sex and minors are generally looked upon as a bad mix by the law.

Africana Studies majors have been voted most likely to experiment with new "tribal" customs.

Anthropology is a discipline concerned mainly with holes and bones. Enough said.

Behavioral Biology majors love to study courting customs and may record any "mating calls" you happen to make. On the upside, they do it like they do on the Discovery Channel.

A **Biology** major will gladly explain to you the evolutionary necessity of sex as well as the various benefits of sex for the species and the individual. Beware of pickup lines involving DNA helicase, gibberellin and alpha helix and beta barrel interactions.

Biophysics majors enjoy drifting into nostalgic analysis of Reich's sex-economy and orgone biophysics, so try to keep them focused on the activity at hand.

Chemistry majors take a lot of labs in which they cultivate one of the oldest laboratory methods: place in hot water bath to speed reaction. They're also experts with aphrodisiacs.

The **classics** major deals mainly with columns and public nudity, making its students well-suited for exhibitionism and documenting activities in ornate, well-hidden books.

Cognitive science majors struggle with the interdisciplinary nature of their courses and often find themselves with a single-track-mind when it comes to sex. Try to talk them out of having sex in conjunction with MRIs or CAT scans.

Earth and Planetary Sciences majors eagerly await the day they can yell "it's raining men." They are also interested in sex in orbit to test fertility in zero gravity.

East Asian Studies majors would love to stay in for a romantic take-out dinner and a movie.

Economics majors are perpetually asking how much sex costs, and they often ruin their chances with principled girls. They are also handy when you need a price comparison of condom brands.

English majors play mind games in bed. Like this: "I would love to ____ (verb) your ____ (part of body) until you feel ____ (adjective)."

Environmental Earth Sciences majors are consistently voted most likely to have sex on the beach and are working to invent recyclable birth control methods.

Film and Media Studies majors enjoy creating pornographic media and erotic films.

French majors are the subject of many sexual stereotypes, including everything from the post-coital cigarette to body hair to various implications of how the unique pronunciation of French words may impact various oral activities.

German majors' sex lives are riddled with bad puns, especially those concerned regional phallic-shaped cuisine and surnames that begin with "Lich-."

History majors keep the most accurate records, whether in a notebook or on a bedpost, of their past. They are also the most creative when it comes to the "who would you rather do"

game.

History of Art majors have entire textbooks devoted to nudity through the ages. They'd be only too glad to include you in their upcoming paper on current exhibits.

History of Science, Medicine and Technology majors are experts on the evolution of sex toys

up with the "Dear Diary: Met a hot girl, she seems into me, and here's an extremely long quote from Lord Byron about my feelings" mentality.

Undecided: Students who have not yet chosen a major may also have trouble deciding what position to use. Be warned: After a certain point this stops being exciting and just becomes tiring and mood-killing.

Applied Math and Statistics majors have declared, after studying game theory, that you shouldn't hate the player.

Biomedical Engineering majors have developed a combination of Prozac and Viagra.

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering majors dedicate extra lab time to the formulation of chloroform, GHB and other useful chemicals.

Civil engineers require blueprints and an elaborate analysis of impacts before sleeping with anyone.

Computer engineering majors devote their Second Life accounts to the pursuit of sexual happiness.

Computer Science majors would like to know your ASL.

Electrical Engineering produces students suited for that specific niche in the bondage industry that uses electrical tape, alligator clips and many other creative devices.

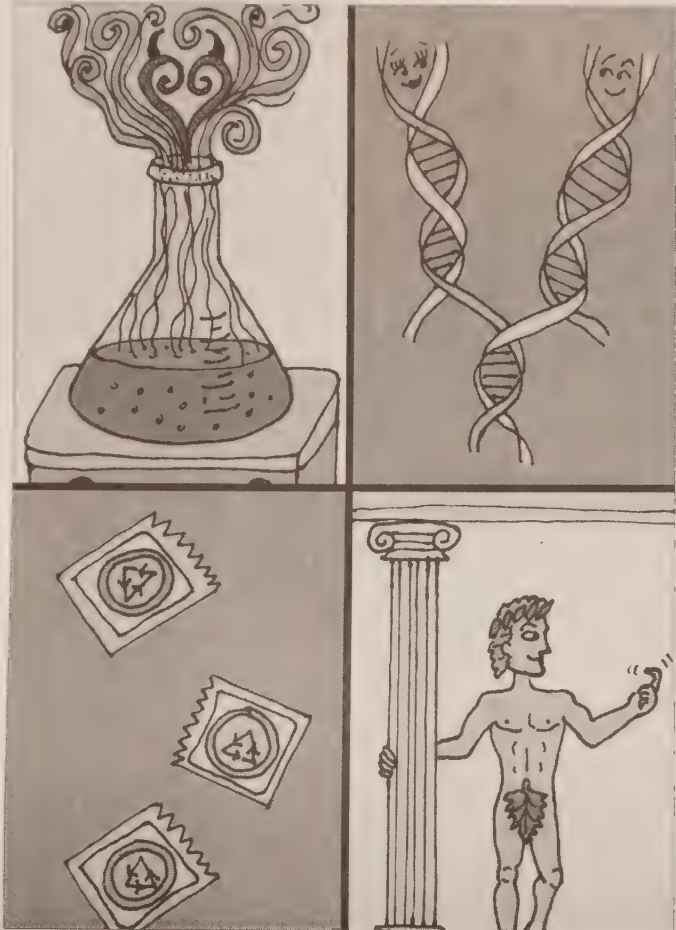
Environmental Engineering majors are very adept at creating the ideal bedroom environment for a given encounter.

General Engineering, reporting for military role-play duty.

Geography majors would like you to know that your body is a wonderland.

Mechanical engineering majors are glad to develop a special robot just for you and are quite adept at gyration.

A special thank-you is extended to Craig Sadler and Sarah Sanchez for explaining what exactly a Biophysics major does.



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

from polished rocks to the Jack Rabbit. Ask for a demonstration.

International Studies majors dedicate themselves to studying abroad. At least they're loyal.

Italian majors are likely to be stereotyped as decadent romantics, and may suffer jokes relating to Italy's active volcanoes and prevalence of cologne and hair gel sales.

Latin American Studies love going south of the border and are typically good with their hips.

Mathematics majors are trying to become derivatives so they can lie tangent to your curves. They also would love to have their natural logs integrated.

Molecular and Cellular Biology could extend their sex pili all day.

Near Eastern Studies majors tend to practice "proper" sex and may take you on a romantic Mediterranean cruise.

Neuroscience majors inquire about action potentials, and are often caught studying your synaptic cleft.

Philosophy majors spend many fruitless hours pondering the question, "Why sex?" Once they stop analyzing the metaphysics of attraction, they're typically fantastic in bed.

Physics majors live by the adage it's not the length of the vector that counts, it's how you apply the force. They are also diligently finding the spring constant of dorm beds, if you'd like to help a research project.

Political science majors aspire to Bill Clinton's deviant but lovable legacy.

Psychological and Brain Sciences majors end every encounter by asking how you feel. At least they're aware of your emotions.

Public Health Studies majors require in depth STI screenings and immunizations before any encounter.

Romance Languages is a field of study in which students may be too busy trying out seductive accents to realize they had you at "Bonjour."

Sociology majors are never lacking in social skills, so don't be afraid to bring them home to large groups of people sharing a common characteristic or behavior.

Spanish majors have both accents and dancing on their side, but their cooking takes a little getting used to.

Writing Seminars students will write you wonderfully crafted poetry, but you'll have to put



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Freshman Romina Ortiz and Cornelius Queen greet one of the PAWS furry mascots before the date auction began on Saturday.

JHU PAWS: a good cause for dogs

By ALEX BEGLEY
Managing Editor

As I sat in Levering on Saturday night going over some readings for my pre-spring break midterm crunch, two Yorkies came trotting into the Pura Vida Café and lounge. Their mousy gray hair dusted the floors and covered their eyes, making them seem very confused about their surroundings.

As one bundle of adorable-ness made his cautious way behind the monitor's desk, I realized that this was probably one of the four-legged MCs of the Hopkins Pet and Animal Welfare Society's (PAWS) Doggie Date Auction.

Swooping the tiny Yorkie into my arms I took him back to his bemused owners who were setting up for the auction in the Glass Pavilion. The Yorkies, dubbed Dolley and Bert, are the mascots of PAWS, which was set into motion by their two-legged counterparts in October. Speaking to PAWS President Ashley Kennedy, a junior psychology

major, she revealed that the driving force behind starting the group was the lack of animal-focused groups on campus. "This is a club that is animal-oriented instead of human-oriented," she said while arranging a snack table for the bidders.

A gourmet picnic basket, resembling the one that the winning bidders would take on their "doggie date," was arranged behind her. The basket included grapes, a bagel, dog bones and sparkling apple cider.

The event will auction off time with a dog and their very special handler. "We were inspired by other groups that did date auctions," Kennedy said, "and we thought we'd make it cuter by adding the dogs." As she said this, Bert, the wayward pup from Levering, dropped to the ground in front of me and rolled over onto his belly expectantly. Cute indeed. The money from the event goes to BARCS, the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter.

Though many of the club's members volunteer at the SPCA, everyone assists at BARCS, so much so that "at least one member helps out almost every day of the week," said junior History of Science and Technology major and PAWS treasurer Liberty Tillemann-Dick.

BARCS is not as well-known as the nationally recognized SPCA, but in Baltimore it receives more animals and much less funding than the SPCA.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Junior Liberty Tillemann-Dick walks the runway for PAWS.

YOUR tracks

Compiled by Marie Cushing

Many of my conversations lately consist of remembering the terrifying episodes of Are You Afraid of the Dark, reminiscing about when the Now! compilation CDs were still in the single digits and trying to DC++ The Mighty Ducks. These songs might not be the best the '90s had to offer, but they're the ones that really get the nostalgia flowing.

"S Club Party" – S Club 7: Back in high school, a girl confessed that she thought the S Club 7 television show was a reality show that chronicled the band's life. She only got clued in that this super popular band wasn't really working in a Florida motel during the episode where they went back in time.

"Lollipop (Candy Man)" – Aqua: While "Barbie Girl" might be their biggest hit, "Candy Man" has much more of creepy male singer in Rene Def. Listening to his deep voice demanding we follow the candy man to "bounty land" is both funny and a teaching tool — get kids to listen to this guy, and they'll never take candy from a stranger again.

"Butterfly" – Crazytown: Ah, the tattooed one-hit-wonders that sprang up during the pop-punk boom of the '90s. For those wondering what ever happened to these guys, their lead singer just finished up a stint on Celebrity Rehab. Looks like it wasn't just loving that got them high.

"Closing Time" – Semisonic: While most of these songs really remind me of junior high, this is a '90s song that means so much more to me now. "I know who I want to take me home" could be the melancholy anthem of the bleary-eyed CVP patron stumbling home after last call.

"Everybody (Backstreet's Back)" – Backstreet Boys: Wouldn't this song have made more sense when they released Un-

breakable last year? At the time we were really worried they were gone for good? And when they ask, "Am I sexual?" does it creep anyone else out? The "Thriller" rip-off horror music video was pretty awesome, and any song that asks me to throw my hands up in the air gets a plus in my book.

"Summer Girls" – LFO: I can't write anything funnier than these lyrics, which are a jumble of memories about the titular girl, random pop culture shout-outs and Torette's-inspired nonsensical outbursts. "Fell deep in love, but now we ain't speaking/Michael J. Fox was Alex P. Keaton." "There was a good man named Paul Revere/I feel much better baby when you're near." "Hip-hop marmalade spic and span"? This was a chart-topping song, folks.

"Stutter (Remix)" – Joe featuring Mystikal: An average R&B "girl done me wrong" song saved by a Pharcyde sample, the stutter effect (which does get gimmicky and grating after a while) and rapper Mystikal's fierce, snarling style. The DMX-esque bark on "you better respect my flow" gets me every time.

"Flagpole Sitta" – Harvey Danger: Now I'll comfortably admit that I have a dirty mind, and I know my way around a "that's what she said" joke. So imagine my shock when a few months ago I learned that this song appears to be about masturbation. The singer runs his fingertips "up the flagpole and see who salutes" — if that's not a reference to self-love, then I don't know what is.

"Bye Bye Bye" – 'N Sync: If Justin brought sexy back, is this where sexy started? Who doesn't know part of the dance from the video? I have JC Chazez in my iTunes, so do I have any musical credibility?

"Wannabe" – Spice Girls: The ultimate dance-around-the-dorm room song. Here's fun experiment: Next time you're at a fraternity party, shout out, "So tell me what you want what you really really want." Prepare to be deafened by the response. Bonus points to those who can do the whole rap. Slam your body down and wind it all around!

CARTOONS, ETC.

Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
Sometimes there's that one food remnant stuck in the bottom of a tall glass. Is that how you feel this week?

Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
When you think you have it bad, just look at Aries. You could be that pathetic piece of oatmeal encrusting someone else's life.

Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
I'm not saying your an awful person, but, I've met nicer people. Puppy-kickers are nicer than you.

Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Sleep soundly for now, but don't be surprised to wake up and find me standing over your bed ready for battle.

Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
Deprived of love? This is not your lucky week. Get used to lonely Saturday nights in front the TV by checking the *TV Guide*.

Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
I defecate on Brody's lawn every morning. I'm sad to see him go ... no pun intended. I hope the new president likes a fertile lawn.

Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
Get ready for disappointment. Think you're working hard now during midterms? Wait 'til you do, or don't, have a real job.

Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
Really slow people should be chased by a ravenous alligator every day to get them accustomed to moving at a real pace.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Violent people will haunt your dreams this week. This is not a bad thing — we recommend trying to sleep in as much as possible.

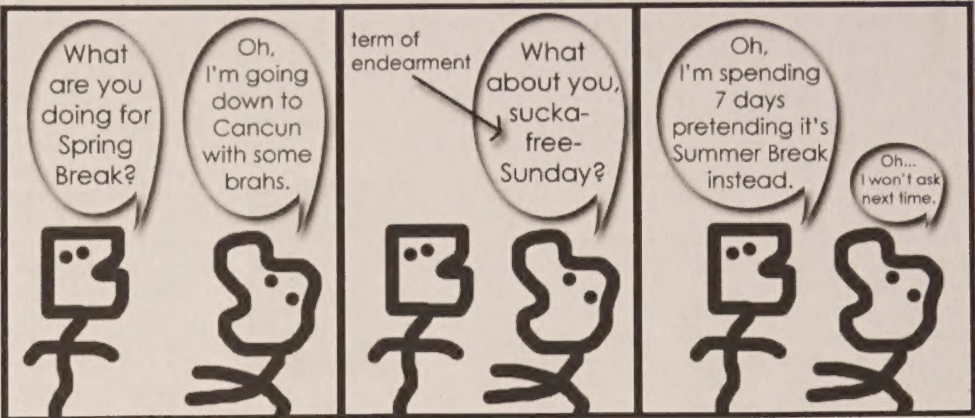
Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - January 19)
Toward a new life you should walk, says Yoda. I think he was talking to poor Mr. Eliot Spitzer. Oops.

Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
Innocent little bunnies will be hopping around campus as products of a not-so-innocent "bun nightstand."

Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
People just don't know what it's like to have your 21st birthday on a production night, the day before an exam. It's pass-out-tacular!

Comicali

by Joe Micali

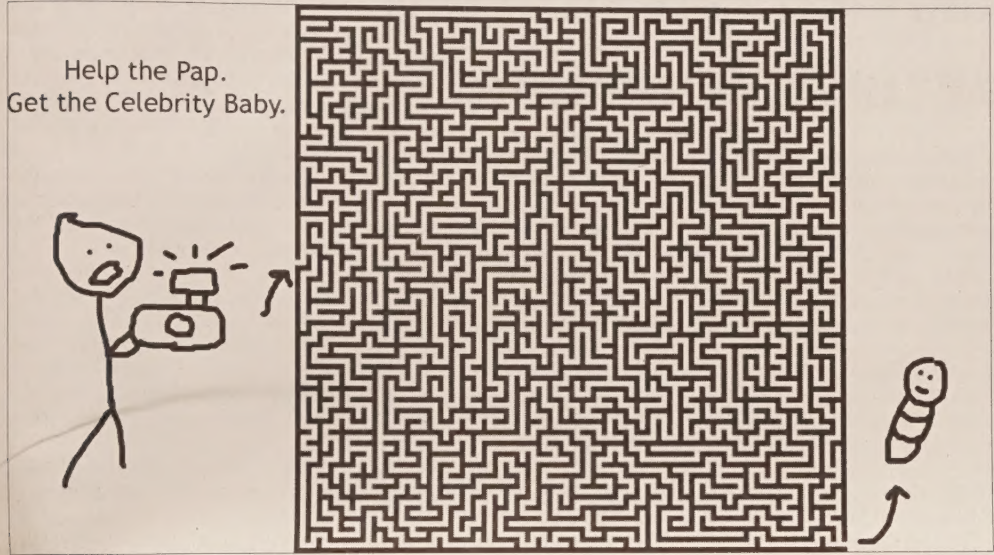


Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



A-Maze



Word Search

FIND: 2 VISION AIDS, 4 VEGETABLES,
6 AMINO ACIDS, AND 8 MYTHICAL CREATURES

t o m a t o l u c n l y
n g e u l n y n n c p h
e l c e n i l o r p o p
f a u g r i f f i n e e
u s t r u e c a i n n n
c s t c a t n o c i i i
c e e y t r n i r h c l
a s l c n y e e c n u a
r u p l e u s m c y e v
r c i o c h a n i e l u
o n y p r a h f c h i g
t l y s i n e c o i c n

Sudoku

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	6					7	5	
	9	4		2	7			3
5			6				1	9
			1		8			
3	1				2			8
2			7	8		9	4	
	5	1					3	
	7				9			

Popular sayings as defined by cats

I'd like to say up front that, despite the title of this little article, I am by no means a "cat lady." I take an active interest in the lives of specific cats and also happen to be a happily single, independent woman. Rather, I like to think of myself as an avid feline advocate as well as defender of the English language. It has occurred to me lately that our little dialect of American English makes use of several bizarre, inaccurate idioms involving cats. I have now taken it upon myself to champion my two favorite causes, the feline and words.

Thus, popular sayings as defined by my cats:

The cat's pajamas: This term, popularized in the 1920s, is attributed to a one Mr. Thomas A. Dorgan. The slang phrase generally indicates preference or excellence as in, "Wow, Todd, dinner and a movie would really be the cat's pajamas!"

My cat Buttons once had an adorable red-and-orange-plaid visor which she refused to wear. Despite the inherent hilarity of a cat wearing what is ostensibly a hat, Buttons shunned the accessory in a vehement and painful manner. I submit that cats hate wearing clothing in general. The notion that a pajama clad cat is excellent, nay, possible is a ridiculous one. Perhaps the irony inherent in describing one as the cat's pajamas is what endows the phrase with such delightfully quirky appeal.

Buttons would disagree.

Cat got your tongue?: As I hope everyone is aware, this phrase is used in situations when an individual finds themselves unable to speak due to fear, embarrassment, shyness or some other negative emotion. It seems generally to be used in a demeaning tone, for example: "So, who are you inviting to the Winter Fest Dance this year, Jessie? I'll bet you're running out of cousins. Whatsamatter — oh, cat got your tongue?"

The implication behind this nonsensical phrasing is that a

cat, in some mysterious way, impairs one's ability to speak freely. Whether this impairment is physical, emotional or mental, I have not the slightest clue. All I know is that this phrase is rubbish!

I have always found that cats are some of the most excellent, receptive listeners one is likely ever to find. For example, four years ago I struck up a very mature friendship with a young gentleman I had met over the Internet. We spoke for hours about the opera, our favorite British soap operas and various other subjects. It was a respectful, pleasant relationship lasting over three months. So, you can imagine my surprise to discover that Cecil was convicted of several felonies I will not specify here for personal reasons.

Jackie Jennings Irreverent, Wacky Fun!

Well, after this unfortunate turn I found myself talking almost nightly instead to my kitten, Baby Ruth. She would sit on my pillow and comfort me. In time I found her to be just as good a conversationalist as Cecil — maybe even better. She is warm, patient and witty: in short, the perfect buddy. And, her knowledge of German opera is incredible.

Curiosity killed the cat: I have no knowledge of where this twisted, heinous phrase originated. It is commonly used in situations to ward off unwelcome inquiry into one subject or another, i.e. "Never look in daddy's sock drawer; it isn't for little girls. It's his private business and no one else's, not even mommy's. Remember, curiosity killed the cat!"

My tabby, Tinkerbell, loves to poke about in all the empty boxes in my dining room. She hides in them, scratches at them

and whenever I get a new teapot or figurine, I'm sure to leave the box out for Tinkerbell to inspect. Well, one fine spring day last year I was returning a defective wicker jewelry basket and somehow or other, Tink found her way into the box, which I promptly sent back to Illinois. My mailman Doug informed me that Tink had been found in the box days later but luckily that particular shipment had been accidentally routed to none other than Maryland's own Kitten Fun Farm!

Therefore, it seems curiosity (in addition to being simply adorable) can actually be beneficial for the bold, adventurous housecat.

Catnap: The concept of a catnap is a strange one. Akin in the language to the expression "40 winks," a catnap refers to a brief, fleeting period of rest, as in, "Don't tell me I'm not fine to drive. I just need a little coffee and a quick catnap and we'll leave, Cheryl." And yet in my experience, cats are some of the most sound sleepers to walk the earth! The picture of the pudgy feline lolling in some sunny spot asleep is unfamiliar to no one so the idea that a catnap would be brief is altogether strange.

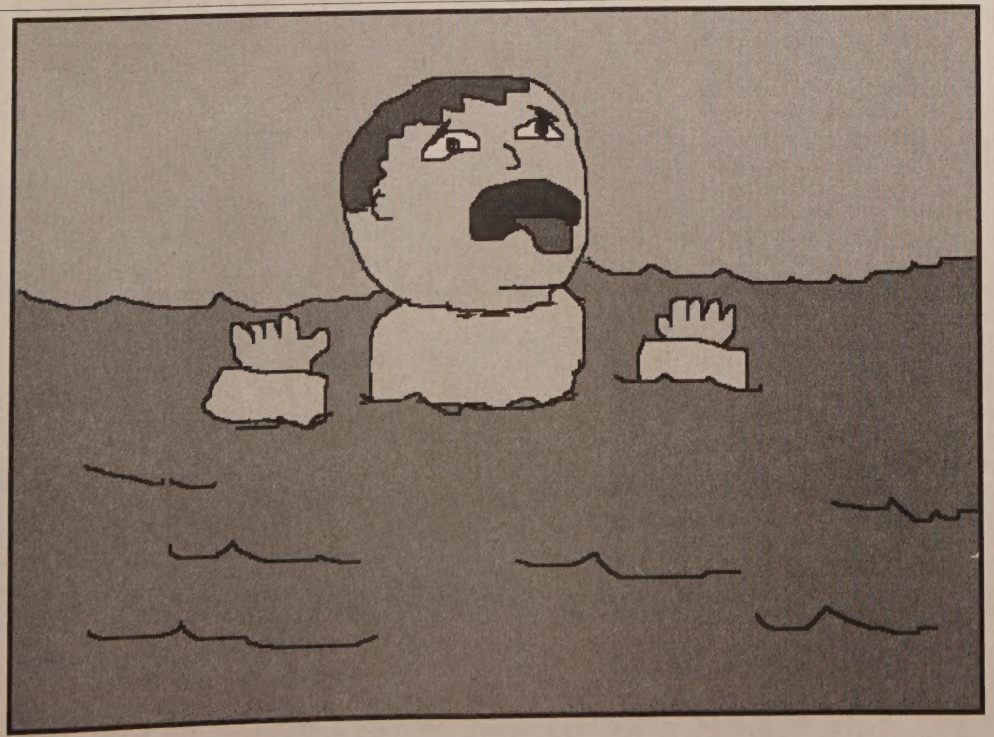
My calico, Buxton, has been sleeping by the living room radiator to two full weeks now! Noise, food, nothing wakes him! I actually rang the folks at Guinness several times to see if Buxton's nap signifies any kind of record. They are extremely dodgy on the phone, and I'm beginning to wonder about their credibility. But suffice it to say that cats are powerful sleepers!

Well, those are all the phrases I have for now. I encourage you, wherever you may be — a party, office gathering or chatroom to correct your fellow revelers should you hear one of them perpetuating such fallacious idiomatic expressions. After all, a cat may have nine lives but we humans only have this paltry one in which to be grammatically correct.

I'd better bring her a teddy bear or something.

A Photo in Time

by Nate Min



Neck Floaties: Seemed like a good idea at the time

The art of losing and the athlete

The Hopkins men's lacrosse team's first loss was a major downer for me. I had hoped the Blue Jays would fulfill my hopes for an undefeated season, redeeming the lack of one from my New England Patriots, but it appears that there will be no zero in the loss column this year.

The Blue Jays' disappointing game this weekend got me thinking about the art of losing. In a team sport like lacrosse, the blame can be laid on any one player who steps onto the field. Someone could have netted an extra goal. Someone could have blocked an extra shot. Someone could have won an extra face-off.

I recalled Al Pacino's speech at the end of *Any Given Sunday*, where he says, "Either we heal, now, as a team, or we will die as individuals."

When a team loses, its players help each other heal together. But what about those who step on the playing field alone?

Individual sports such as wrestling or tennis have to do what they do by themselves. They have teammates who will train with them or cheer them on during a match, but when they're in the middle of their battle, there's not a whole lot a team can do for them.

They're either going to win or they're going to lose, and the thrill of victory or the burden of defeat falls on their shoulders and theirs alone. The pressure is enough to make some athletes crumble.

"Losing in an individual sport is a lot worse than losing in a team sport because you have no one to blame but yourself," junior

wrestler Tyler Schmidt said. "When I lose, I don't make excuses for it. It's all part of the process. That means I wasn't prepared enough. That in itself is probably more hurtful than anything else. You can't make excuses. You just lost because you got beaten."

For many individual athletes, a loss is key to their development in the sport. There aren't very many Cael Sandersons out there, who can go undefeated throughout their career.

Losses develop the athlete. He learns from his mistakes, makes changes, and works harder to make sure that they don't happen again.

"When I was in high school I was a lot more discouraged about losses and considered myself not up there with those players, when really it's just a matter of a few points," sophomore tennis player Dave Maldow said.

"As I grew up and got through college and started appreciating

Losing in an individual sport is a lot worse ... because you have no one to blame but yourself.

— TYLER SCHMIDT, JUNIOR WRESTLER

He knows that if he wins, he will be the one raising his hand in victory.

It was his individual effort in practice, his hard work and dedication to the sport that brought him the win.

However, on the opposite end of the spectrum, a loss becomes the inverse of that.

He didn't work hard enough. He made mistakes. Hewasn'tasgood. I can remember nothing as emotionally devastating as losing a match in front of my team when I wrestled

in high school. When an athlete steps into his field of play alone, the fear of loss becomes a major factor. It can often be the only factor.

I was sitting around with a few of my old college wrestling teammates this weekend when one of them said to another, "You're more afraid to lose than you are driven to win." This summed it up perfectly.

When an athlete faces an opponent that he knows can be beaten, the agony of loss far outweighs the glory of victory.

However, should these losses be forgotten in favor of moving on, or do all of an athlete's losses serve as valuable learning experiences?

"I think it varies," Schmidt said.

"Some matches I do just forget and move on. For the most part, you should forget about them until the next day. Then you should start considering them and analyzing them and probably over-analyzing them if you can, because those are the losses you learn the most from."

"Forget in the short-term and remember in the long-term."

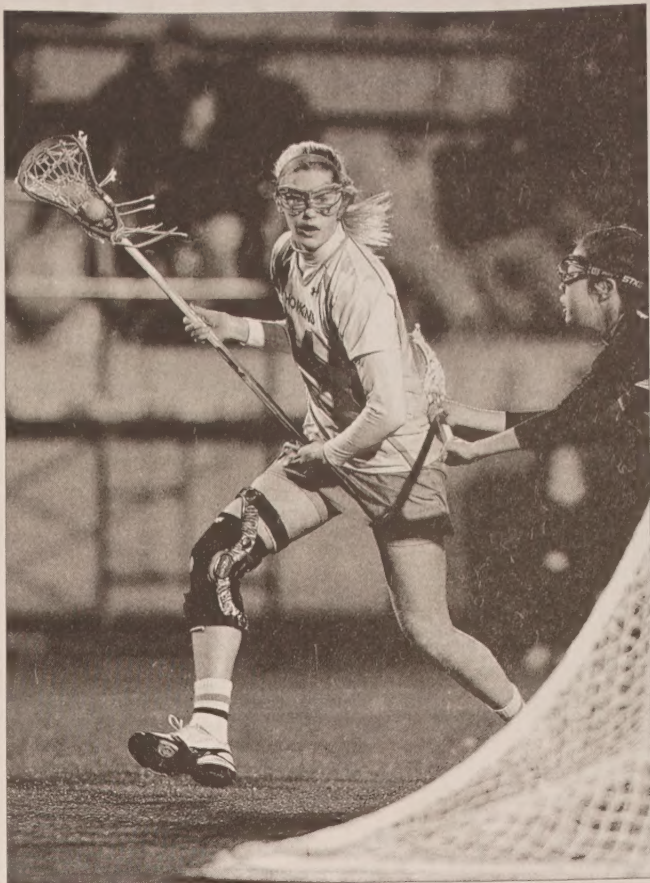
There's a Confucius quote I actually first saw on the back of a wrestler's T-shirt that has stuck with me my entire life.

It read, "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do."

The fall may hurt. It reminds the athlete of his weakness, what he still needs to accomplish, but it's what he does afterwards that truly matters.



Demian Kendall Out of Left Field



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Senior midfielder Kadie Stamper, recovering from an injured ACL, goes for a goal.

Lady Jays lax struggles against Georgetown

Georgetown game was a tough loss but it showed us the power we have when we attack the cage hard."

Slow starts such as these can be detrimental for even the mightiest of teams if they do not have the needed team chemistry and unity to withstand such a test. However, the Lady Jays had no doubts when it came to this aspect of their team, which could be called somewhat of an extended family for the women and coaching staff.

"I love the team this year," Stamper said.

Some of this positive attitude can be attributed to the freshmen class this year, who have added a lot of personality to the team.

"They are so fun and bring so much to our team each in their own little crazy way," sophomore attack Danielle Ensley said.

However, the women will

need more than just personality alone to weather the storm as they try to continue the tradition of excellence that Hopkins holds so dear. Part of this year's challenge is having two injured team captains. Sick with mono, senior midfielder Lauren Schwarzmans cheers on her team from the sidelines with Stamper, whose knee and ACL are still not healed.

Still, Houck was not too worried. "We have lost a few close games so far, which is unfortunate," she said.

These close games include defeats dealt by the George Mason University Patriots by one point, the Princeton Tigers by two points and the Georgetown Hoyas by two points.

Houck continued, "But I think that at the end of the Georgetown game, we finally started playing how we want to be playing all the time."

Ireton and Sigmon lead track teams

Continued from Page B12 in the standings.

In the 5,000-meter run, senior co-captain Patrick Brandon broke his own school record for the second time this season as he crossed the line in 15:06.67, dropping his record another 6.02 seconds.

Fellow senior co-captain James Bronson captured eleventh place in the 1,000-meter run as he also broke his own school record by .01 seconds.

Senior Tristan Thomas, the lone sprinter representing the Jays, placed 19th in the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.70. Thomas also took 19th in the 200-meter dash with a 23.01 second performance. Sophomore Nate Sotuyo's time of 1:58.28 was good for 19th place overall.

In the field, junior Matt Trachtenberg vaulted his way to 4.40 meters, just .01 meters shy of his season's best. The vault had Trachtenberg tied for 10th place in the event.

In the relays, the 4x880 yard relay team of Sotuyo, sophomores Gordon Mack and Noah Jampol, and freshman Elliot Wehner took seventh place with a time of 8:06.04. The distance medley relay team, made up of Bronson, Mack, Sotuyo and Belton, posted a time of 10:27.09 to secure a sixth place finish.

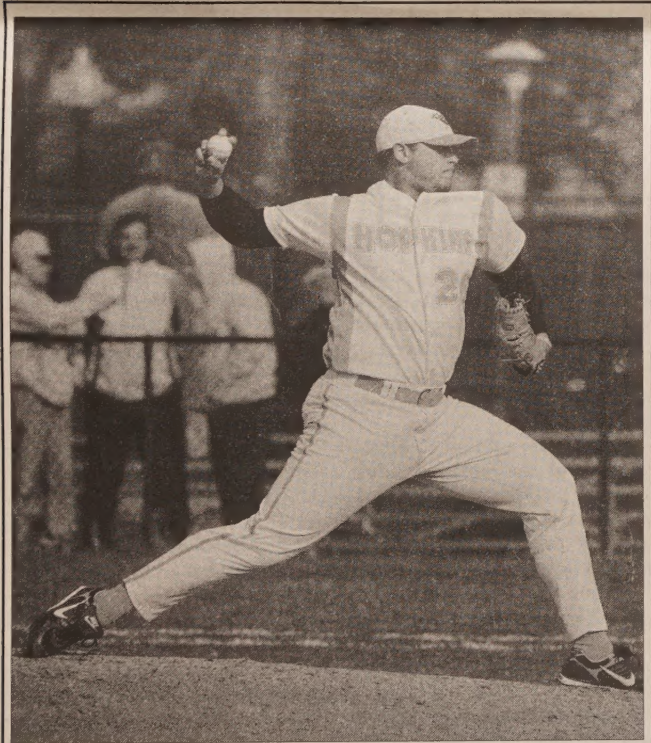
As the season ends, the Jays can reflect on their best seasons in program history on both the men and women's sides.

"The men's team has performed exceptionally this past season. Not only have a number of school records fallen, but nearly everyone on the entire team has set their personal bests this indoor season," Brandon said.

"As for the outdoor season I am sure that this trend of improvement will continue and I believe we will be in contention for the Centennial Conference championship again. Personally, I am hoping to break 15:00 in the 5k and 30:45 in the 10k."

Brandon is the current record holder in the 10,000-meter run.

The Blue Jays will return to action and kick off the outdoor season on March 22 at the Towson Invitational.



FILE PHOTO Senior pitcher Joe Zaccaria relays the ball in the Blue Jays' second game of 2008.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Baseball 2-0 record

Men's Lacrosse 3-1 record #4 NCAA ranking

Women's Lacrosse 2-3 record #15 NCAA ranking

Men's Track 35th in ECACs 3rd in Centennial Conference

Women's Track 16th in ECACs 2nd in Centennial Conference

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK KIRBY HOUCK, WOMEN'S LACROSSE

By KATIE MOODY News-Letter Staff Writer

Right before taking the field on game day, senior Kirby Houck makes sure she is wearing what's important: two arm bands, one black and one pink. Next she puts on eye black and her special socks. Any other rituals we should know about? "Right before the game, either me or [goalie] Jess Buicko have to make a goal," she said. "...shooting from the sideline bench."

These quirky Athletes of the Week's superstitious habits seem to be working out well for her. Last weekend, she single-handedly scored a career-high five goals against Georgetown. Unfortunately, this wasn't quite enough to bring a team win, but it doesn't matter. As one of the

VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Senior
Position: Midfielder
Major: Sociology

Hopkins Highlights:
Scored career-high five goals against Georgetown

captains, Kirby is well-versed in how to keep the team's passion alive for the game she's always loved.

The enthusiastic side of Kirby is quite refreshing. As someone who is certainly used to receiving cheers, it's great to see her give it

right back to those she admires. If she were to go on a cross-country road trip, she knows exactly who she would bring with her and why.

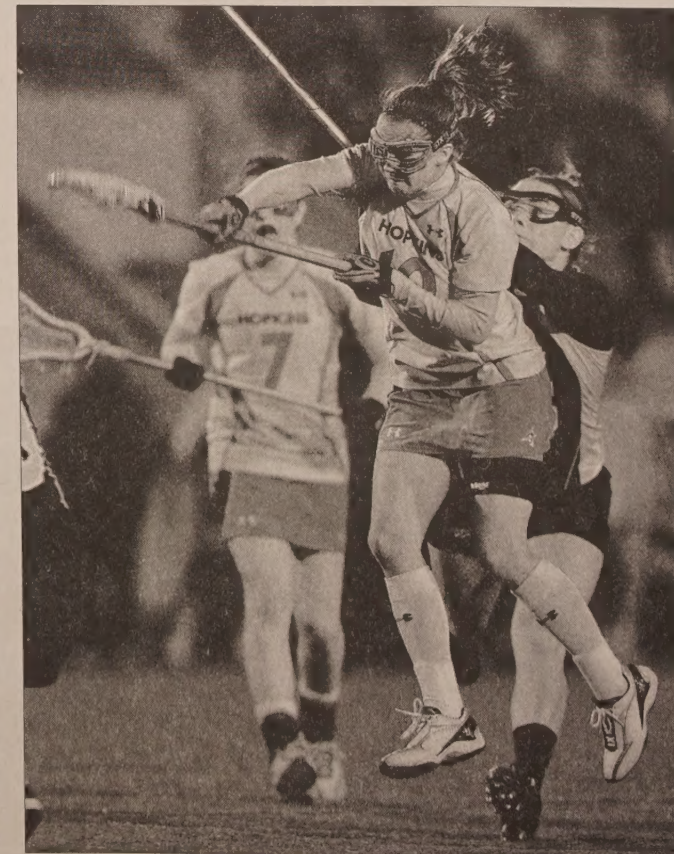
"Channing Tatum, to stare at the whole trip, the guy who invented pickles, so I could have an endless supply ... and Dave Matthews, so he could sing to me!" she said, smiling. They are excellent choices: a hot man, a talented singer/song-writer and a guy who makes sure you never go hungry. A girl certainly can't go wrong with any of those.

When Kirby isn't jamming lacrosse balls down the throats of her opponents, you will probably find her working out, playing tennis, cooking, baking or hanging out with friends. She is also an avid fan of the TV show *Lost* and her favorite movie is *The Story of Us*. Recently, she discovered a love for photography. "I'm taking Intro to Digital Photo right now and I love it," she said.

"If I could have any dream job, I'd definitely want to be a photographer for *National Geographic*, a pastry chef in a popular bakery or a personal trainer for movie stars!"

Does this girl ever stop moving? Is there anything she can't do? Between discovering her hidden talents, training, baking for friends and dreaming about whipping celebrities into shape, one might say that she is quite the busy bee. What would it take for her to slow down? It would pretty much entail being stuck on a deserted island.

"If that ever happened, though,



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

I would really only need three things there ... my pillow, some chocolate and a good book," she said.

It's the appreciation for the simple things in life that make Kirby not only a superstar athlete, but a great person and leader. She helps keep her team focused and hungry — not too hungry, though, because after

all, she is quite the chef and baker.

To check out Kirby in action, grab your Blue Jays gear and head out to Homewood Field on Monday, March 17 at 4 p.m. to watch her and the rest of the Lady Jays play the University of Maryland, College Park in a St. Patty's Day rumble. Don't miss it!

SPORTS

Fishel takes eighth place at Nationals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
Gotreau, the seventh seed from Augsburg College. He was never able to get anything started against the tough opponent and lost my major decision, 9-0. Even though it was his second loss of the tournament, Fishel only dropped to the match for seventh place where he met Elliot Smith of Springfield College. Unfortunately Fishel lost the final match of his college career by fall at 5:19.

Fishel closed out his career with an eighth-place finish, becoming not only the first Blue Jay All-American in recent history, but also the first Hopkins wrestler to make it to the second day of the national competition. On top of that, he also has two Centennial Conference championships and what's believed to be the school record in wins with 98.

As the season comes to a close, head coach Keith Norris looked back at what he viewed as a season of accomplishment.

"We changed our schedule around so that we'd face the toughest opponents out there," Norris said. "We wanted our guys to feel confident, no matter who they were wrestling."

When asked about prospects, he added, "We have a strong core of wrestlers returning next year. Though we lose the leadership of [James] Crumlish and Fishel, we have guys like Tyler Schmidt and Matt Rugani who are already coming into leadership roles as we move into next season."

Though the Jays lost two important wrestlers to graduation, they'll add a probable field of at least 15 incoming freshmen, hungry and eager to wrestle. And, as Norris continues to tell them, "Never be satisfied with placing. Strive to keep improving." Look for great things from the team next year as they continue their push towards their continual goal to be conference champions and to make a name for themselves on the national stage.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior attack Kevin Huntley pulls off a wild leaping shot in Tuesday's UMBC game.

M. lax draws the short stick in OT game against Hofstra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
would be the last time in the match.

"[We knew] a run was gonna come by them; [Hopkins is] too powerful, too well coached, but we just needed to worry about the next play," Tierney said.

Hofstra handily won the opening face-off in sudden death overtime. The Jays, who never seem phased by tense game situations, suddenly looked overmatched against the Pride.

Hopkins failed an attempt to clear a ball that led to an untimely turnover, and Hofstra freshman attack Jay Card was then given the opportunity to put the ball in the net for the fourth time in the game, sealing the deal for his team.

"[Coach Pietramala and I] shared a few words," Tierney said. I'm sure he wasn't happy with the way his team played."

The loss broke a 12-game winning streak for the Blue Jays that extended from last season. But it wasn't all bad news for the team last week.

Hopkins came from behind for the exciting 10-8 victory against the UMBC Retrievers last Tuesday night. It also took some time

for the Jays' offense to warm up in that game. Junior midfielder Austin Walker, who was a big part in keeping the Hofstra game close, lit the fire for Hopkins against the Retrievers, scoring the first goal of game, which was also his first of the season.

"Maybe my goal provided a small spark to get us going, but overall I think it was just a play that [Coach Pietramala] called at the right time," Walker said. "We executed and then built upon it to gain a win."

One certainty is that the guys know how to apply what they learn from both their wins and losses to their play on the lacrosse field. It's what made the team successful for so long. The team was similarly upset in their 2007 season-opener against the University of Albany Great Danes, but went on to win the National Championship.

"[The Hofstra] loss will provide us with a greater sense of urgency going into this week's game," co-captain Doneger said.

The Jays will retake the field this Saturday against the Syracuse Orange at noon at Home-wood Field.

Move over midterms, make way for Madness

March Madness is over here at Hopkins, so let the basketball March Madness begin. On Sunday, the NCAA Selection Committee for the Men's Division-I college basketball tournament will pick the 65 teams that will compete in the single elimination competition to determine the national champion. Shortly thereafter, millions around the country will try to guess the winners of 64 games, with a list of schools ranging from the well-known to the relatively obscure.

March Madness, as it has been called for decades now, manages to capture the hearts and minds of people everywhere, not just sports fans. American companies stand to lose billions of dollars in lost wages and productivity from workers who spend more time deciding which mid-major's backcourt could potentially upend an ACC powerhouse's than working on TPS reports.

Many feel there is no skill involved in picking a winning bracket and that it is completely luck. But I, as an avid basketball fan who has placed in the top two in every pool I have entered for the last three years, think that there is a science to the Madness. Below are a few bracketology tips which should come in handy come Sunday.

1) Pick Your Own Bracket.

I know that many of us are tempted to base our picks off professional analysis and create mimic brackets of so-called "experts." But if everyone in your pool has virtually the same bracket, when an upset happens that "experts" cannot foresee, the smart bracketeer who went against the grain will come out on top.

Another key is not to take advice from friends or family, who may actually know less than you do or could be throwing a smoke-screen at you in an attempt to make you pick an almost surefire loser. I learned the family part of this at an early age. When I showed my dad the first bracket I ever filled out, which had Buck-

nell, a 14-seed, defeating Kansas, a three-seed, my dad harshly criticized the stupidity of the pick. Going on his confidence, I switched, making Kansas the victor and then having them ride that "automatic" win into the elite eight. Sure enough, Bucknell defeated Kansas 64-63, and I was left shaking my head as my new elite eight pick Kansas was sent back to Lawrence.

2) George Mason is not this year's George Mason.

Eric Goodman Bracketologist

Most of us remember the then 11th-seeded George Mason's magical run to the final four in 2006. That was a truly fantastic feat in its own right, but the GMU Patriots, who are automatically in this year's NCAA tournament as the winner of the Colonial Athletic Association tournament, will not have a repeat of that magic.

In fact, I'm convinced that that no team will be this year's George Mason. The reason for this lies in the NBA rule change, which affected college hoops starting the season after GMU's Final Four run, which forced the phenoms set to go straight from high school to the NBA to spend at least one year in college. Most of these players are now at powerhouse, big name basketball schools including Memphis, Oklahoma, Duke, Gonzaga, Indiana and UCLA. These schools will all make the NCAA tournament, and frontloading at these schools makes the odds of making a deep tourney run for a school like GMU, Siena or Austin Peay, two other automatic bids with likely low seeds, that much smaller.

3) Superstars = Superflops

It may seem easy to think that the top player in the nation could lead his team to the title. But recently, that has been proven false. With the exception of 2001, when Shane Battier led Duke to

the title, the team of the winner of the Naismith Award for the nation's college player of the year has not taken home the championship trophy since 1992. In fact, in the 15 tournaments since 1992, the team of the Naismith winner has only made the championship game once and only made the final four two other times. While this year the player of the year award is up in the air, with Kansas State's Michael Beasley, North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough and UCLA's Kevin Love being the frontrunners, it may be a safe bet for now to not have any of those three teams winning it all.

4) Screw the Ivy League.

Many students at Hopkins do not necessarily like the Ivy League, for reasons which I don't need to explain. Each year the Ivy League's regular season champion gets an automatic bid to March Madness.

This year's winner was Cornell, making it the first year since 1988 that a non UPenn/Princeton team will be in the tournament. Since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, an Ivy League team has only made it out of the first round three times, and never past the second round. The only guarantee in life is death, but you can be pretty sure Cornell will not advance past round two and probably will watch the second round of games from the bleachers.

5) When in doubt, go with the animal.

It would be hard for me to go back through every tournament game and determine the origin of each mascot, but in a sampling of all the final four games since 1985, there has only been one year where no teams with animal mascots were in the final four, and just under half of all final four teams in that 23-year span had mascots which were animals. Thus, if need be, it may not be a completely stupid option to pick the Belmont Bruins over Duke or UNC.

6) Anything can happen!

Nothing else really needs to be said. This is what makes March Madness so special, that anything, truly anything, can happen.

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SPORTS

Did You Know?

Actor Billy Crystal signed a one-day minor league contract with the New York Yankees so that he can play in today's exhibition game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Crystal will wear number 60, a day before his actual 60th birthday. He is a long-time Yankees fan.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

M. lacrosse vs. Syracuse 12 p.m.

Fishel becomes JHU's first All-American wrestler

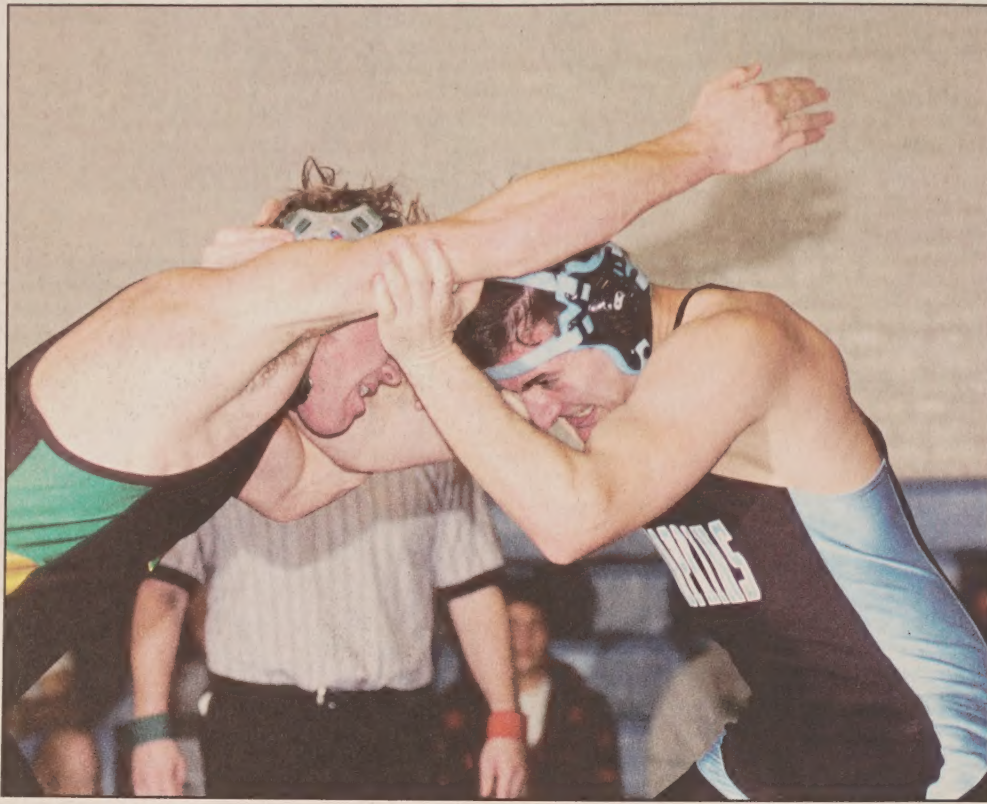
By MIKE SUMNER
News-Letter Staff Writer

After winning the Centennial Conference Championships, two national-qualifying Blue Jays set out to compete in the NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championships.

The conference is allowed to send 11 representatives to compete — the winner of each individual weight class and one runner-up. The Jays sent freshman Patrick Stanley and senior Eric Fishel to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where they competed in the 165- and 184-pound weight classes, respectively.

Stanley had already earned praise throughout his freshman season, capping it with a surprise upset when he became the Centennial Conference champion at the 165-pound weight class. But he wasn't satisfied to leave it at that as he entered the national tournament determined to further his success.

Unfortunately, Stanley ran into a brick wall in the first round as he drew the second overall seed, Tyler Burkle from Coe College. "Of course he was a good wrestler, but I never felt overmatched. I could have beaten him," Stanley said. "A big part of it was just that it was my first match at Nationals as a freshman. I just had to get those first-match jitters out of the way." Burkle, who was a perfect 38-0 on the year, defeated Stanley by fall at 5:46. Burkle would go on to finish his season with a perfect record, demolishing the rest of the competition and taking first place in the weight class.



Senior 184-pounder Eric Fishel works to open up an alley for a leg shot. Fishel is Johns Hopkins's first All-American wrestler.

This dropped Stanley into the consolation bracket where he would face Zach Bogardus from SUNY Cortland, the seventh seed. After completing his first match, Stanley was feeling more relaxed and confident going into the match. His confidence carried over into his performance, as Stanley successfully rebounded to score a close 7-5 win. Unfortunately,

he fell in the next round to Justin Bonitatas from the College Of New Jersey, 10-5. Stanley finished the tournament 1-2. Though he did not place, it was still an impressive start to what should prove to be a long and successful career.

This would be Fishel's second trip to the National Championships. He was also the confer-

ence's representative a year ago as the winner of the 184-pound weight class. He had bounced on and off the season rankings list as the season went on. He entered the tournament unseeded.

He began the day on a sour note against the fourth seed, Joshua Zabel from UW LaCrosse losing by fall at 0:48. This dropped him into the consolation bracket where he rebounded against the fifth seed from UW Stevens Pt. Engelland. Fishel came out on top by a score of 7-5. Up next was Ben Adams from John Carroll University. Fishel would also prove too much for Adams, finishing him off by a score of 15-7 to end the first day of competition 2-1.

Fishel began the next day of competition against Robert Engelland. Fishel came out on top by a score of 7-5. Up next was Ben Adams from John Carroll University. Fishel would also prove too much for Adams, finishing him off by a score of 15-7 to end the first day of competition 2-1.

Continued on Page B11

M. lax draws the short stick against Hofstra

By ALEXANDER IP
News-Letter Staff Writer

The picturesque undefeated season of the top-seeded men's lacrosse team was abruptly derailed last weekend.

In their first game of 2008 outside of Baltimore's city limits, the Jays came back to town befuddled, suffering an unexpected loss at the hands of the unranked Hofstra Pride in overtime by a score of 7-8.

"I would certainly consider it an upset, for the experience, with the youth of our team," Hofstra head coach Seth Tierney said.

While this event doesn't quite reach the magnitude of the Appalachian State Mountaineers' upset of the Michigan Wolverines in the 2007 college football season, the occurrence still carried historical significance.

It was the first time that Hofstra knocked off a number-one ranked opponent. But despite that, Tierney downplayed any hype surrounding the recent Blue Jay loss, citing that both lacrosse programs compete in the exact same division and maintain a high level of play.

Tierney was an associate head coach at Hopkins for two years, working in a six-year stint on the

sidelines of Homewood Field under head coach Dave Pietramala. He was also on the staff during the 2005 championship season, but all that's ancient history to him.

"That chapter is done. I'm at Hofstra now," he said.

Tierney's squad came out firing on Saturday, putting Hopkins in a three-point deficit at the end of the first quarter.

good team like Hofstra."

After a strong defensive showing in the next quarter from both sides, highlighted with four saves by Hopkins sophomore goalie Michael Gvozden, the 6-3 score endured into the second half of the game.

In the third quarter, the anemic Blue Jay offense finally broke out with three consecutive goals in a total span of 10 minutes.

Senior attack Michael Doneger rounded out the long charge by swiftly potting an extra-man goal with an assist by sophomore midfielder Michael Kimmel.

"When we tied the game at six, we thought we had weathered the storm so-to-speak, and gave ourselves an opportunity to get back into the game," Doneger said.

But the sigh of relief from Hopkins was short-lived as the Pride responded with a goal midway through the last quarter. Hofstra would have held on for the win in regulation, if not for a great shot engineered in the penultimate

minute by the Jays' senior midfielder Stephen Peyser, which evened the score for what

Continued on Page B11

Final	
Hofstra	8
Hopkins	7



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior midfielder Paul Rabil attempts to knock a Hofstra ball loose.

"We got off to a slow start," Hopkins assistant coach Bobby Benson said. "We cannot afford to come out like that against a

Track teams finish their strong season in Boston

By MIKE YUAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

The men's and women's track and field teams ended their indoor seasons this weekend in Boston as both competed in the ECAC championships.

Strong finishes on both sides concluded an impressive season for both teams, in which school records were constantly being broken. Over the two-day meet, the women totaled 19 points, while the men managed to earn seven points.

"The final indoor event for the Hopkins track team was very successful, what with five school records and many personal best performances in this huge meet that is essentially the East Coast Championships of Division III," assistant track coach Jay Dunn said.

For the women, the top finisher for the Jays turned out to be junior co-captain Jordan Ireton, who earned herself a second place finish in the 500-meter run. Her time of 1:18.26 smashed the old school record by 4.19 seconds, a record which stood for 12 years.

Fellow sprinter junior Paula Osborn doubled as she ran in the 55-meter dash and the 200-meter dash. Her time of 7.54 in the 55-meter dash was good for 15th place, while her time of 26.74 in the 200-meter dash, an indoor best, earned her a 19th-place finish.

Over on the distance side, the Jays were led by strong performances from two juniors. In the mile, Rachel Hogen took ninth place with a time of 5:14.07, and Emma Hiza was able to finish in 17th place in a time of 18:32.06, further lowering her personal best.

In the field, senior Becky Lossing, who set a new school record in the high jump the previous

week (1.60 meters), was able to finish with a final jump of 1.56 meters, good for ninth place.

"Having just set a new school record in the high jump, I was hoping to jump that height again at ECACs," Lossing said. "While I didn't end up clearing that height, I cleared 1.56, which, before one week ago, would also have been a personal record. In the end, I am satisfied with my performance but am anxiously awaiting the outdoor season to meet my record again."

Hopkins had a very good showing on the relay side, as all three teams set season-best marks. The 4x220 yard relay team, comprised of Osborn, Ireton, senior co-captain Jessica Reeves and freshman Anita Mikkilineni, placed 11th with a time of 1:49.80 in the event. With a school-record performance of 9:39.05, the 4x880 relay team of Ireton, Hogen and freshmen Kit Harris and Martina Dodd claimed third place. The same four women came back to run the distance medley relay, which was able to place fourth with a time of 12:32.94, just shy of the school record.

On the men's side, the Jays were led by sophomore David Sigmon's performance in the 3,000-meter run. Sigmon's personal best time of 8:49.62 earned the Jays one point as he finished in eighth place.

"It's been a frustrating season for me," Sigmon said, "so to come out and run well was a huge relief."

Fellow sophomore Graham Belton wasn't far behind Sigmon as he took 13th place in the event, running 8:54.56. Belton went on to compete in the mile, the first Hopkins runner to ever do so in the event at ECACs. His time of 4:20.66 was .28 seconds faster than his own school record, earning him the 10th spot

Continued on Page B10

Women's lax can't close against Georgetown

The Lady Jays lost their third of the year to the Hoyas, dropping to a number 15 ranking

By SIMRAN HUNDAL
News-Letter Staff Writer

The women's lacrosse team suffered another loss against the undefeated Georgetown Hoyas, despite the late comeback run by the Jays on a wet Homewood Field last Friday.

The 10-12 loss gives the 12th-ranked Lady Jays a 1-3 record, a frustrating start for a team that made it to the NCAA Quarterfinals only the year before.

"The Georgetown game was just a letdown," senior midfielder Kadie Stamper said flatly.

The game did not start off well, as the Jays allowed three goals within the first 10 minutes against the ninth-ranked Hoyas. However, the Jays were able to refocus the rest of the half, cutting the score to 3-2 heading into halftime off of strikes by freshman middle fielder Brianna Cronin and senior midfielder and captain Kirby Houck, who went on to lead the Jays with a career-high five goals.

The second half started off almost identically to the first, with the Hoyas scoring in the first seven and a half minutes. After the Hoyas' lead extended to 7-2, Houck was able to sandwich another two goals before and after a Hoya strike. Nevertheless, the rampage continued ruthlessly to make the score 12-4 with 11 and a half minutes left in the game.

Hopkins finally caught a break when sophomore midfielder Kim Dubansky put a free position in the back of the net with less than 10 minutes to play.

Sophomore attack Sam Schrum scored with 7:40 left in the game off of an assist from fellow classmen, attack Brett Bathras. Schrum fired and scored again within a minute to bring

the score to 12-7 for Schrum's sixth goal of the season. Hopkins sniped yet another goal, this time within 30 seconds, when Bathras found Stamper for Stamper's fifth score of the season.

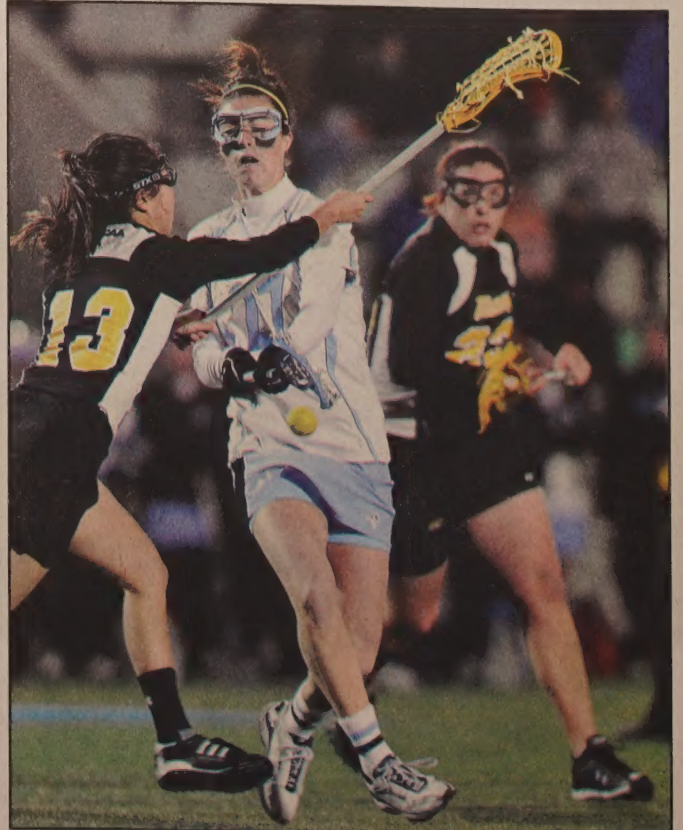
The Jays were then able to score after a save by junior guard Jess Buicko, when Stamper connected with Houck to give her an open shot which pulled the Blue Jays within three goals with four minutes remaining. However, despite the great scare the Jays were able to give the Hoyas,

Georgetown was able to stall out a win after allowing one more Stamper-Houck hook-up with 21 seconds left in the game.

Looking back at the game, the Jays are both disappointed with the end result of a loss on their record but are glad that they made their late run to hopefully establish a rhythm they can use for the rest of the season.

Freshman attack Brooke Fousadier concluded, "The Georgetown game was a tough loss but

Continued on Page B10



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore attack Bathras dodges a defender at a game against Towson this week.

INSIDE

March Madness: Beat the brackets!

Want to ace the NCAA March Madness brackets this year? Want to win it all and impress your friends? Our staff writer Eric Goodman tells you how. **Page B11.**

Athlete of the Week: Kirby Houck

Kirby Houck is a true Renaissance woman. From hitting the gym, baking, photography and, of course lacrosse, this senior Lady Jay just about does it all. **Page B10.**

Women's lacrosse: Lady Jays struggle

It has been a far-from-ideal season so far for the Hopkins women's lacrosse team. This Saturday, the Lady Jays lost a close one against the Georgetown Hoyas. **Page B10.**